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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Said Unwilling To Mediate for Syria, Jordan

JN2111210994 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that Egypt recently informed Jordan that it does not wish to mediate between Syria and Jordan to bring their viewpoints closer to each other especially after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Justifying its decision not to intervene, Egypt said time is not appropriate to cleanse the atmosphere between Damascus and Amman.

League Chief Refuses Talks on Boycott With Peres

JN1911081194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources at the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo said Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, has refused more than once to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, to discuss Israel's demand to end the Arab boycott of Israel.

The sources said the Israeli attempts to have contacts with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid began after the Palestinian National Authority assumed its responsibilities in Gaza and Jericho. The attempts continued through U.S. officials.

The sources said 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized his commitment to the resolutions of the Arab League Council, and said the Arab boycott of Israel is still valid despite decisions by some Arab countries to establish relations with Israel.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Jerusalem Delegation

JN2111103794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0732 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Following is the text [as heard] of the speech His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat delivered yesterday when he received a delegation representing men of good offices from Jerusalem and the West Bank, in the presence of Jerusalem Mufti Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri and Chief Justice Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sirdanah:

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat called for self-restraint and reconciliation. The president asked Shaykh 'Ikrimah and Shaykh Abu-Sirdanah to intervene to end the sedition, which appeared in the Gaza Strip, noting that all the Palestinian people are united and will not deviate from this course.

Addressing the delegation at his headquarters in Gaza, in the presence of local and foreign reporters, 'Arafat said: The incidents were not spontaneous. We were patient and exercised self- restraint. How can we explain the attempt to storm the government headquarters six times and the demolishing of one of its buildings and one of its gates? The president wondered: Who planned this destructive act? Who gave the orders to attack the Palestinian forces headquarters? Can anybody imagine that the officers and soldiers there would allow such attack?

The president added: Those officers and soldiers are the heroes of Beirut. They have defended their homeland for 30 years. They waged the longest Arab war against Israel and traveled through all countries—Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, and this land. I, personally, was among them.

'Arafat said: All this took place while we were exercising self-restraint. He repeated the Koranic verse: And fear tumult or oppression, which affecteth not in particular only those of you who do wrong.

President 'Arafat presented three x-rays taken of wounded people at the al-Shifa' Hospital. They showed dumdum and plastic bullets. He asked: Where did these strange bullets come from? The audience said: From Israel. He then said: These bullets are not used by the Palestinian security forces. The president added: While interrogating one of the wounded, who was hit by dumdums, the wounded said that he had been standing next to Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar [a Hamas leader in Gaza]. However, both he and Dr. al-Zahhar escaped at the last moment when they fell on the ground to avoid the stampeding masses. President 'Arafat wondered: Who was the target of these bullets? The audience said: It was Dr. al-Zahhar.

The president said: We consider all the victims as martyrs for Palestine, and most of them were from the Fatah Movement. We should put a question mark here.

Concluding his speech, the president said: I appeal to you to end this sedition. Our people, who are stronger than all plotters, have overcome tougher problems and difficulties. Mountain will not be shaken by winds.

The Jerusalem delegation could not visit the houses of the martyrs to offer condolences because the meeting with 'Arafat continued until 2130 yesterday.

'Arafat Addresses Veterans League Group

JN2011180294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Revolution Veterans League held a mammoth march in the midst of Gaza this morning denouncing the painful incidents that took place Friday in which nine Fatah members were martyred.

The participants in the march proceeded toward President 'Arafat's headquarters on Gaza's shore, chanting slogans calling for national unity, and for closing ranks to build the homeland.

President 'Arafat briefly addressed those gathered. He praised their genuine national sentiments, and emphasized that any party which receives orders from outside will not succeed in dealing a blow to the Palestinian newborn or the Palestinian dream.

His excellency added that in spite of all that has taken place, we are advocates of national unity. He wished that those gathered will be the guardians of this Palestinian dream, and of the Palestinian people, their interests, and their Palestinian state.

Stresses Unity in Speech

JN2111185094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian National Authority, in Gaza on 21 November—speech continuously interrupted by shouts, chants, and applause]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When comes the help of God and victory. And thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds. Celebrate the praises of thy Lord, and pray for His forgiveness: For he is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verses]

Yes, yes, when comes the help of God and victory, and victory, and victory, and victory.

Brothers, my beloved ones, comrades of the march, O you who sparked the Palestinian revolution in the darkness of nights to say that this Palestinian people will continue, will continue their struggle and jihad—brothers, brothers, my beloved ones, my brothers, my beloved ones, my brothers, comrades of the march; comrades of the march, the long, hard, and difficult, and the inevitably victorious march—until a hawk from Fatah, until a cub from al-'Asifah [Fatah Movement's military wing], and until a young girl from Fatah raises the flag of Palestine over the walls of Jerusalem, over the churches of Jerusalem, and over the minarets of Jerusalem.

Yes, brothers. The march continues, continues, continues until Jerusalem, until Jerusalem, until Jerusalem, until Jerusalem.

Yes, brothers. The march continues, continues, continues until Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, the capital of the State of Palestine.

Brothers, a few days ago we celebrated the Day of Independence. The independence is now being established over the first part of the Palestinian territory to be liberated, this pure, sacred territory. However, some people want the march to fail. I tell them that despite that, we extend our hands to them to build this homeland and to make this homeland. Fatah has always been in the forefront in advocating national unity. Therefore, I tell every one: Stick to national unity, stick to national unity. Yes, national unity on the land of Palestine and for the sake of Palestine. Yes, let everyone know that Palestinian blood is sacred. We will not allow anyone to wreak havoc or to infringe on these victories. Yes, brothers and beloved ones.

Therefore, I tell my brothers in Fatah Hawks groups, the young men of Fatah: Stick to national unity, stick to national unity. Yes, brothers, we advocate democracy, we advocate pluralism, but we also advocate security and stability to build this homeland, a free, independent homeland, a homeland for the free and honorable people; yes, a homeland for the free and honorable people.

Today marks a plebiscite in favor of the National Authority, the PLO, and the peace process—the peace of the brave. On this day, we pledge to the Fatah Hawks and to those who made the great victory in Fatah-Land in southern Lebanon, in Beirut, the Beirut of steadfastness, in Tripoli, in Rafah, in Khan Yunus, in Gaza, in Hebron, in Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, in Ramallah, in Qabatiyah, in Nabulus, in Tulkarm, in Jabaliyah, in the central camps, in Janin, in Tulkarm, in Qalqiliyah, in Tubas, in Jericho, and in every part of the Palestinian territory, I tell you, brothers, we fought for the sake of this land, and for its sake we will fight to keep this Palestinian flag flying over this Palestinian territory.

We remember the martyrs. We tell the virtuous martyrs—at head of whom is the prince of martyrs Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]—and all detainees in the Israeli jails, that the pledge remains unchanged and the promise remains unchanged.

Brothers, no one can claim to be more patriotic than the Hawks. No one can claim to be more patriotic than the PLO, no one claim to be more patriotic than your Authority and your security forces, the protectors of the revolution and the Authority. For 30 years, for 30 years they have been sacrificing blood starting with al-Karamah [battle in 1968] to the Beirut of steadfastness, and on the Fatah-Land, on Mount Hermon, in al-Qunaytirah, and on the Suez Canal. Yes, no one can claim to be more patriotic than those who raised the banner of the revolution for 30 years. Now the Fatah Hawks, the heroes of the PLO, with all its factions, strugglers, and people both inside and outside the homeland...[pauses] you are, brothers, the protectors of this PLO. You, along with the Palestinian security forces and the police, must protect this march until Jerusalem, until Jerusalem, and until Jerusalem.

We will not forget those pursued [by Israel] and we will not forget the deportees. This Palestinian land is for all Palestinians. Greetings of loyalty and pledge to all of our detainees, particularly our great [Hamas Movement founder] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. [crowds chant, shout] No. We are a people who believe in unity. We are a people who believe in unity.

Yes, I tell everyone: You Fatah supporters respect the strugglers. [Unidentified person prompts 'Arafat to say that Fatah is the pillar of national unity] Yes. Fatah is the pillar of national unity. [Unidentified person continues to prompt 'Arafat: Fatah will rise above the wounds] Fatah will rise above the wounds, Fatah will rise above the wounds. [Unidentified person continues to prompt 'Arafat] Fatah, brothers, is the mother of the child. There are attempts to bury the Palestinian dream and to kill the Palestinian child. But, I tell them, I tell the conspiracy and all conspirators, who receive orders from abroad: Palestinian decision-making is independent. [repeats previous sentence four times]

Yes. The cabinet has considered all the martyrs who fell on Friday [18 November] to be martyrs of the Palestinian people. You know that the majority of martyrs were from Fatah. However, we will rise above the wounds, brothers. I tell the conspiracy and the conspirators: We are like a mountain which no wind can shake.

Yes, brothers, greetings to all heroes of Palestine. Greetings to our sisters and the women of Palestine. Yes, greetings to the workers of Palestine. Greetings to the young girls and boys of Palestine.

Keep vigilant. Keep your eyes open. There is no tolerance over security, brothers. You are the protectors of this homeland and the protectors of security.

Brothers, once again, I tell our martyrs, I tell the detainees, I tell our wounded ones, I tell our Hawks, I tell our girls, I tell our workers, I tell our children, and I tell our people: The pledge remains unchanged and the promise remains unchanged. To Jerusalem, to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem, in the process of the peace of the brave.

VOP Reports 'Arafat Address to Masses

JN2111195694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian National Authority, to "the Palestinian masses carried on the waves of Palestinian Radio and Television;" place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our Lord, decide thou between us and our people in truth for thou art the best to decide. [Koranic verse]

Masses of our great people: I address you today after we have lived together through these difficult times in which the feelings of sorrow and sadness mix with the feelings of anger over the regrettable events witnessed in certain areas in the Gaza Strip on Friday [18 November]. Feelings of sadness for the martyrs and the wounded ones who fell from among our Palestinian people, both military and civilian. And feelings of anger over the conditions that were imposed on the security forces, and feelings of anger over the premeditated murder of some brothers and the injury of some others, and also over the sabotage directed against the property of citizens and the harm inflicted on our young national economy.

We understand, brothers, that all of you have similar feelings; feelings that cause worry and concern about the dream. Yes, they cause worry and concern about the dream, which we have seen beginning to materialize on our land in the past few months, and about the prospects of the future which we have sought, and continue to persistently seek, with confidence and with chests full of faith and power.

Despite the magnitude and dimensions of the conspiracy, we said this is not the hour for sadness, but the hour for thought, assessment and making decisions. This is not the hour of grief, but the hour of action and work. It is not the hour of anger, but the hour of work and construction.

Children of our valiant people: From the first moment after our National Authority was established on our liberated Palestinian territory, we declared and stressed that this will be the authority of all the sons of Palestine. We declared and stressed that we have two basic tasks. First, to continue our national march to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the remaining Palestinian territories through the faithful and precise implementation of the Declaration of Principles. And, second, the building of our National Authority and implementation of our programs to rebuild our infrastructure, which was totally destroyed by the occupation, and to realize a development that is linked to our national project, which seeks to build a sound national entity based on democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, equity, the independence of the judiciary, and the supremacy of law.

Soon after the first moment, we stressed that these tasks must be shouldered by all of our people with all their factions and forces, regardless of differences, contradictions, and diverse interpretations.

Quoting martyr Hasan al-Banna [founder of the Muslim Brotherhood], I say: Let us agree on what we can, and let us not blame each other for our differences. Yes, brothers, it has been among our concerns to make the practices of the authority's organs and departments reflect our objectives and programs. We have extended a hand to all forces and trends for dialogue and cooperation. We have called for participation in these responsibilities in all the bodies of the National Authority from the top to the bottom, yes, from the top to the bottom. We realized that the authority's success in spreading its control over the liberated areas and the overwhelming popular response to it and its program would anger many of those who wagered on chaos, civil wars, and infighting to break out. Therefore, we have always warned [repeated three times] against attempts at playing one against the other, and conspiracies, particularly those which foreign forces and hands manipulate. We have also warned against the practices that provide an appropriate atmosphere for fabricating problems. We have warned against some people's being dragged into practices that harm the ability and prestige of the newborn authority as it fortifies its structure, builds its agencies, and firmly establishes a place for our people on the political and geographic map—yes, firmly establish a place for our people on the political and geographic map of the Middle East.

All this is taking place amid the feverish plots which have tried, and are trying, to kill our people and their cause. Out of our sense of the national responsibility—given that the National Authority is the authority of the entire people—we have exercised the utmost degree of self-restraint and tolerance toward many manifestations and provocations, and we did not permit ourselves, brothers, for one moment to be enticed into using force and ignoring law and its supremacy against those practices. We have been keen on protecting the rights of ordinary Palestinian citizens to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the freedom of expression as long as it is within the framework of dialogue and as long as it is committed to respecting democratic bases and traditions. We have suffered a great deal because of that. However, we have not disowned promises to our people. The promise is still the same, and the pledge is still the same.

O sisters and brothers. All this was happening while our National Authority was facing big challenges directly or indirectly aimed at bringing the National Authority down and destroying our people's ambitions. These challenges were trying to prove that our people are weak, in preparation for murdering them and in order to continue the occupation, on one hand, and to impose various kinds of custodianships, which seek to devour the dream and the Palestinian newborn. Yes. They want to devour the dream and the Palestinian newborn.

The first of these challenges is represented by the Israeli stand that manifested itself in a continuous series of practices. Israel attempted to avoid its commitments stipulated in the Declaration of Principles and in the agreements concluded between the PLO and the Israeli Government. It also tried to obstruct what was already agreed on in terms of releasing the detainees and attempted to obstruct the Palestinian council's elections, in addition to related issues. These include the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank, the isolation of Jerusalem, the partitioning of the Ibrahimi Mosque, the continued repressive practices against our people in the West Bank, impeding the implementation of agreements that deal with safe crossings between Gaza and Jericho, the economic blockade, and closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

All these practices were aimed at encroaching on our people's ability to face the challenges of reconstruction.

My brothers. Another challenge is linked to all this. Yes. All this made the donor countries hesitate or abstain from fulfilling their financial obligations. These donor countries continue to use weak pretexts to avoid paying the financial aid they promised to pay—aid through which we could go ahead with our programs aimed at erasing the consequences of 27 years of occupation, which destroyed various aspects of our infrastructure. This is not to mention the international community's ethical, moral, political, and material responsibilities toward our people, who suffered much pain due to the failure to implement international resolutions dealing with our constant national rights.

Despite this, brothers, despite these difficult challenges, my beloved ones, we were continuing our work, relying principally on the sacrifices of our great people, a people who never ceased offering all kinds of sacrifices for the sake of their legitimate aspirations and national objectives. In only few months, our National Authority was confirming its success in providing security to our people after decades of suppression and terrorism. Our National Authority was completing the building of institutions and recruiting the best qualified people for its agencies. Our Authority began to set and execute several plans to serve our people in several fields. We were also mending our pace to provide the suitable frameworks, structures, and laws to secure an economic drive, based principally on the Palestinian intrinsic power of the Palestinians inside the homeland and in the diaspora, to open all horizons to the Palestinian private capital to invest in the building and reconstruction process [words indistinct] distinguished beginnings in various areas and in various forms.

Brothers and sisters: Under these difficult challenges, under the intransigent Israeli position, under the donor countries' hesitation and disavowal, and under the campaigns of instigation and rancor launched by certain local and world quarters, the Friday events occurred in certain areas controlled by the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza Strip.

I say that according to information available to us, we expected certain elements—which do not want an atmosphere of brotherhood and national dialogue to prevail, and which do not want our people to enjoy their freedom and independence and to proceed with the march of construction—to try to stir problems and sedition under various slogans and banners, instigated and on orders from abroad, which do not want the Palestinian newborn to grow or the Palestinian dream to materialize.

The instructions given to your brothers and sons, the members of the Palestinian National Security Forces and the police were that they should exercise the utmost degree of self-restraint against any provocations. The first martyr to fall in these events on Friday was a member of the National Security Forces, and so was the first to be wounded. The largest number of martyrs and the wounded were from the Fatah Movement, yes from Fatah Movement, who were unjustly killed or wounded.

The members of the police and security forces exercised self-restraint, and in many cases, their lives were endangered. They were forced to intervene when the citizens' property and institutions became endangered, not to mention the public institutions and building which were ransacked and attacked in a manner that has nothing to do with the ethics, traditions, and struggle of our people and society. We do not know how a national and faithful Palestinian can allow such actions? Yes, I wonder, and I have a right to wonder: How can a national and faithful Palestinian permit such actions?

Sisters and brothers, the Friday incidents serve the objectives of those who want to abort our dream and to bury our Palestinian newborn, and to dim the ray of light that has started to guide us. All these incidents, in terms of planning and occurrence, serve the enemy schemes against our people's national rights and their sacred dreams to existence, freedom, and independence. We have the right to ask in whose interest is this taking place?

However, I say what the entire people repeat: The mountain will not be shaken by winds [repeated three times]. We confidently say that mistaken will be those who believe that they can set the clock back and once again impose tutelage on our people. Mistaken will be those who, for one moment, believe they can check our people's march and our building of our Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital [repeated three times].

Sisters and brothers, the Palestinian National Authority at its meeting on Saturday, from the premise of national and historical responsibility made several decisions to tackle the recent regrettable incidents and to formulate a basis and visualization of work in the future. The authority will in the next few days reveal all the facts it has gathered on the regrettable incidents on Friday through a judiciary investigation committee and an expanded fact- finding committee.

On this occasion, we thank our brothers across the Green Line for their good efforts to contain these incidents. We also thank our brothers from the nationalist and influential forces in Gaza and the West Bank.

Sisters and brothers: At these difficult and hard moments, we reiterate the following point, which constitutes the basic guideline: What has taken place will not change our conviction of the need for dialogue and cooperation among all the forces in our Palestinian national arena. A dialogue committed to the observed norms serves the homeland and the people. This is an objective which we will never relinquish. We will never change this position despite some people's attempts to evade dialogue, as happened several times. The Palestinian Authority will not permit, in any way whatsoever, any harm to be done to the Palestinian national security, or the security of the citizens. It will never allow attacks on citizens' lives and public and private property. It will never permit any suspect schemes that aim to undermine the national Palestinian march or confuse the authority and disrupt its performance. Nor will it permit any provocations against the security and police forces, which include the best strugglers of the Palestinian revolution and resistance. Those strugglers displayed legendary steadfastness and heroism throughout the past long years. They did so in al-Karamah [battle], Beirut, southern Lebanon, Mount Hermon, the Suez Canal, Gaza, and Sinai. Yes, that happened at a time when some were opposed to jihad and refused to recognize the martyrs.

The National Authority, brothers, proceeding from its responsibilities, stresses its adoption of all martyrs. The National Authority will perform its duty toward protecting the masses' security and property. It will firmly stand against those who attempt to attack and carry out acts of sabotage, yes, acts of sabotage, against public institutions and citizens' property. The National Authority will never allow citizens to be terrorized or their personal liberties encroached upon. The Council of Ministers has decided to compensate all those harmed during the recent incidents.

Attempts to exploit the democratic atmosphere will only result in strengthening our adherence to and faith in the need to defend pluralism and its practice and democratic liberties under the supremacy of the law. This is not a favor from the authority. Rather, it is one of the rights of the free, struggling people holding fast on the land of steadfastness in Palestine. It is the authority's duty to ensure this right. This is a free country for free people.

We salute the awareness of our masses in all positions for their individual initiatives to contain anarchism, acts of sabotage, and aggressions. Our masses are aware of their duty to protect their society and people from any attempt to carry out acts of sabotage or undermine national unity, as well as any attempt to abort the Palestinian newborn and dream.

We salute the masses of our people who support their National Authority. They have always adopted this stand, today, yesterday, and during the difficult confrontations of any terrorist attempts to impose any external plans on our people, and to terrify the citizens or disturb their security and stability.

Brothers and sisters, I extend condolences to all the families of the martyrs and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded of our people. I also reiterate that at these moments, we should enjoy awareness, alertness, and self-restraint in order to be able to confront any attempts to drag our people into the abyss of anarchism, and to resume our march toward achieving the higher national objectives of freedom, independence, self-detrermination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

'Arafat Threatens To Hold Elections Despite Israelis

NC2011221694 Paris AFP in English 2205 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Palestinian Authority will bypass Israel and hold elections in the autonomous areas if the Jewish state continues to procrastinate in negotiations, a semi-official newspaper quoted PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat as saying Monday [21 November].

"The Israelis are continuing to procrastinate because they are supposed to withdraw from the West Bank, redeploy their troops (there) and hand over powers to the Palestinian Authority. This is what they want to delay," 'Arafat said in an interview published here in the early edition of AL-AHRAM.

"If they continue this procrastination the Palestinian Authority will hold the elections from one side...under the supervision of the United Nations," 'Arafat added.

The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the elections for a self-rule body which will rule the autonomous areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho have been suspended since last October following a string of attacks against Israelis that killed at least 22 people.

The negotiations are to resume November 29.

'Arafat also lashed out at Israel for "its collective punishment policies" like the closure of the Gaza Strip following attacks.

"In these situations the economic state becomes completely paralyzed because the workers cannot go to their work (in Israel) and trade activities in the Strip, or to and from it, are stopped," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat also criticized donor countries for the delay in providing 720 million dollars in promised aid to help construct sorely-needed infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

He added that "some elements" were using the Palestinian Authority's financial crisis to pressure them "into making concessions over the issue of Jerusalem and its future."

"These elements have presented excuses to justify the fact that the aid has not reached us and among them is that the Palestinian Authority has not set up its establishments with which to handle the money," 'Arafat said.

"We told these elements that it is possible to start the construction projects and regulate the payment of salaries through the UN offices until the Palestinian Authority sets up its administrations," 'Arafat argued.

"But it seems that the issue of pressuring the Palestinian Authority for concessions over Jerusalem is the motivation behind this pressure," 'Arafat said.

Israel claims Jerusalem as its united capital, while the Palestinians claim its eastern side as the capital of its hoped-for future state.

'Arafat Says Fatah Hawks To Confront Hamas

TA2111173094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by Dani Gur-Arye]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Over 10,000 Palestinians marched in Gaza City this afternoon in support of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who addressed the crowd, said the demonstration constituted a vote of confidence in the PLO. [passage omitted]

Hundreds of the demonstrators were armed, firing their handguns and automatic weapons into the air. Yasir 'Arafat spoke to the crowd accompanied by his police chief, whom Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters want fired over Friday's [18 November] incident. 'Arafat said the demonstration is a referendum for the National Authority, a referendum for the PLO. He referred to conspirators who take orders from outside, and he said Palestinian blood is sacred. Some people want to disrupt the peace process, 'Arafat said, but we will create a state, and Fatah will always be the backbone of national unity. 'Arafat also called on Israel to release Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

'Arafat has set up a five-member judicial commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the clashes on Friday, in which 13 Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded. Another commission of 20 Gaza figures, including Islamic leaders, is supposed to investigate the incident, but Hamas members have so far refused to take part. The group has not signed an agreement reached with the help of Israeli Arabs, who mediated between the two sides, saying the PA must first fire officials responsible for Friday's massacre. One of the Hamas leaders, Mahmud al-Zahhar, said the group would not sign the agreement and that contacts with the PA had broken off.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 21 November carries a report by Dani Zaqen, adding: "The significance of the mass pro-'Arafat rally held in Gaza today went beyond mere support for Abu-'Amar ['Arafat]. To wage his battle, the PLO leader recruited those he has neglected since his arrival in the Gaza Strip—members of the intifadah leadership as well as field operatives, the Fatah Hawks terrorists. Some of these terrorists now serve in the Palestinian Police, but their leaders, with a few exceptions, have been removed from the PA and have been given no positions of importance.

["Acting evidently in a bid to shift the emphasis from a PA-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] confrontation to Fatah-Hamas strife, 'Arafat ordered prominent intifadah figures, most notably Sami Abu-Samahdanah, to stand up to the armed 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam fighters. In an impressive display of power, Abu-Samahdanah today rounded up hundreds of former fugitives and thousands of supporters for the rally which, according to Gaza sources, was attended by 12,000 people."]

'Arafat Adviser Abu-Rudaynah: 31 Prisoners Released

JN2011162594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the regrettable Gaza city incidents, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, information adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said 31 citizens arrested during Friday's [18 November] incidents have been released proving they had not attacked private or public property.

During its weekly meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the Council of Ministers decided, on the instructions of Yasir 'Arafat, to release all prisoners who proved they had not attacked private or public property.

Official Spokesman: 'Normal Life' Returns to Gaza

JN2011172094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian official spokesman has said the Palestinian leadership, led by His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, highly values our masses' efforts to prevent malicious and biased people from fabricating sedition. The people, he said, did this by realizing the dimensions and dangers of this sedition and by resuming normal life in the homeland.

The spokesman said complete calm and normal life have returned to all parts of Gaza Strip. He added that the Palestinian leadership salutes the masses for taking a responsible national position to build the homeland and provide security, safety, and stability for all citizens on their national soil.

Sha'th Sees 'Participation' as Solution to Conflict

MM2111141494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Nov 94 p 5

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, international cooperation minister in the Palestinian Authority, by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Hijazi] Is what has happened a civil war, on the grounds that there are two authorities on the ground, one of which has to settle the conflict with the other? And did Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, suppress the rebellion yesterday?

[Sha'th] If Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had thought of doing that, he would have made his preparations for such a war. He would have purchased gas bombs, instead of firing bullets. I tell you that in his worst dreams Abu-'Ammar refused to allow civil war to be the price of imposing his authority. Assuming that was the case, can such a conflict be entered without preparation, that is, like someone fighting with nuclear weapons in a local war? He has avoided it for six months. If he wanted a war, he would have ordered the deployment of Fatah cadres, who are tantamount to a militia, that is, a militia against another militia. But he did not. I can give you a hundred pieces of evidence that it was not in his mind to engage in a bone-breaking battle with Hamas. Because most of the time the police members were just defending themselves. You, like others, must have seen that it was the people who destroyed the fence of al-Saraya (Gaza prison and the security forces' headquarters). There were no police elements even to defend it. [passage omitted]

[Hijazi] Do you accuse anyone?

[Sha'th] No, I do not accuse anyone. There is an investigation committee, and we do not want to draw conclusions before the investigation committee has its say. There are video tapes which need to be studied. Of course, not everything can be attributed to a foreign conspiracy. Nor can these incidents be exploited in favor of foreign quarters. We want to examine everything.

[Hijazi] Civil wars usually have their own logic: an explosion followed by calm...then explosion followed by calm and accusations leveled at a third party, often unknown, and so on. Do you believe that what has happened will not lead to further complications?

[Sha'th] I believe that the incidents have been contained. But to ensure that they will not lead to any complications, great efforts are needed. The important thing is that no one wants war or to engage in this logic.

[Hijazi] But the main question remains: How can two authorities exist on one ground?

[Sha'th] Through participation. Participation is the radical solution. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Views Gaza Incidents, Donor States, Talks

JN2011172794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Interview with PA official Dr. Nabil Sha'th by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Mediation efforts are continuing to reach an agreement between the PA [Palestinian Authority] and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] and Islamic Jihad Movements. These two movements have set conditions, including declaring responsibility for the Friday incidents [in Gaza]. What is the PA's position?

[Sha'th] Brother, good offices have been made since the first moment. We support them with all our means. These good offices contributed to making the day immediately following that sad black day a calm day for everyone. However, we should be clear about what is being said on the issue of responsibility.

Naturally, the PA is fully responsible for the security of the homeland and citizens. Thus, the party that has authority is usually responsible for all that happens in the homeland. We behave out of our full responsibility to safeguard national unity, achieve security, continue the peace process, and bring about economic prosperity for citizens. We are assuming all these responsibilities.

However, what is being said on this issue is unfair because the call for declaring responsibility has turned into a call for blaming the PA, thus ignoring the fact that this issue should be the substance of the investigations being conducted by the judicial and fact-finding committees.

We want to know who set fire to cinemas, public places, and clubs; who set fire to police vehicles and why; who attacked ['Arafat's] headquarters; and who fomented the sedition. We also want to know how all these matters were addressed, and whether these things were confronted in a right or wrong way. All these things are being investigated by the fact-finding and judicial committees, so anyone involved will be referred to the public prosecutor and courts to receive a fair punishment. These committees will also work out all political and security procedures which will prevent the recurrence of similar sad days.

[Mu'addi] Naturally, the developments in Gaza are considered a serious sign by the donor states. What will you do on this level to disburse the aid these states pledged to the PA?

[Sha'th] At the request of brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], I will leave tomorrow for the European Union's headquarters in Brussels and also for Sweden, England, and other states. We will brief the donors on all the facts. Other brothers will also leave for other destinations. We want the world to sense the meaning of sealing the Palestinian Gaza Strip and West Bank as well as the meaning of preventing workers from reporting to their workplaces, goods from reaching their purchasers, and fishermen from fishing in their own waters. These donor states are reluctant to provide anything. A besieged strip and unreceived funds are the reasons for explosions. We want the world to understand this fact.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Have any contacts been held between you and the Israeli officials in this regard?

[Sha'th] No doubt about it. These contacts usually place all facts before them. They also dot the i's and cross the t's. If the Israeli officials really want this peace process to continue, we want them to move quickly in order to end all the manifestations that contributed to this explosion, so the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will be placed on the right path. We also want these officials to quickly push the peace process. There is no better solution than spreading the peace process, achieving prosperity, and realizing real cooperation.

[Mu'addi] What is the fate of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which are slated for next week?

[Sha'th] We hope they will be held as scheduled at the Israelis' request. We should have met on 21 November. However, as the Israeli prime minister is now in the United States, the Israeli Government requested a postponement until 29 November. I hope that on 29 November we will quickly move and achieve a breakthrough in these negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, brother.

Qaddumi Blames Israeli Intelligence for Incidents

JN2111130094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, announced in Cairo today that the Israeli Intelligence organs planned Gaza's bloody confrontations last Friday [18 November] in which 15 were killed and 200 were wounded.

Qaddumi made this statement while Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] still insists that the Palestinian Authority [PA], led by Yasir 'Arafat, must shoulder the responsibility for the Gaza incidents as a precondition to reach an agreement to ease tension.

Israeli newspapers today said that the Israeli security organs believe that the Palestinian Islamists, who carry out suicide operations against Israelis, use explosives brought from Egypt.

More than 10,000 pro-'Arafat Palestinians staged a demonstration in Gaza streets today in support of the PA chairman.

PA Official Says Gaza Calm, Life Normal

JN2011192994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, PA secretary general of the Presidency, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Affairs, PA], can you tell us about the current situation in Gaza?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The situation is completely calm in Gaza. Students went to school, and university students attended courses in their universities. Businesses opened their doors and life is returning to normal. There are some rumors which rapidly prove to be unfounded.

There is also the fifth column, or what they call the third party which tries to fabricate rumors. However, the people's maturity and alertness immediately put an end to these rumors.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the truth is that most of the Palestinian popular organizations and national institutions, and, for that matter, our Palestinian people, have voiced support for the PNA's measures. How do you explain this, taking into account that you have called for exercising self-restraint from the beginning of the incidents?

['Abd-al-Rahim] It goes without saying that all the sectors of the Palestinian people want to pursue building their Palestinian homeland. They aspire for stability, security, and safety in the PNA areas, particularly because we are on the threshold of a new stage, the second stage of the Declaration of Principles. This is represented in the transition stage. Any attempt to fabricate clashes and battles in the service of specific political designs does not serve the Palestinian people's objectives. Thus, it is natural that our Palestinian people confront these attempts such as Molotov cocktails, the indiscriminate use of weapons, marches without permits, and opening fire on the police. The Palestinian people have come to abhor all these manifestations, and, of course, to condemn them. Of course, we are against intra-Palestinian fighting. In our program, we emphasize democratic dialogue and we believe in pluralism. But, dialogue has its prerequisites and so has pluralism. It is impermissible to use weapons against the national security forces, and after this to resort to demagoguery and raise a hue and cry and say that the police started by opening fire and so on. We have documented evidence, on film, too, that armed people from some factions had taken up positions on the rooftops of houses that are near the mosque, and that some of the worshipers had Molotov cocktails and loudspeakers. After this nine from Fatah were martyred; four inside the mosque and five outside it. Then they claim that it was a massacre against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. This is media sensationalism. The people immediately began to sense the falsehood of these allegations.

[Al-Qazzaz] Even the reactions changed a lot after the people heard that there were nine martyrs from Fatah.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yes. There were nine martyrs from Fatah who were shot in the head at close range, three of whom are still in the Intensive Care Unit. Regrettably, some of them were inside the mosque. These facts will be presented to the investigation committee formed by the PA. They will also be presented to the popular fact-finding committee, which the PA will form. There was one martyr from Hamas, two from the Islamic Jihad, one independent martyr, and nine from Fatah. Hence, it was a premeditated thing. Regrettably, we did not know anything until one hour before the incident. Therefore, there were no policemen in front of the mosque.

Of course, the use of dumdum bullets and plastic bullets as well, which are not used by the National Security Forces, raises many questions about the groups which fired the shots. We do not want to jump to conclusions and hold these groups responsible, because we are objective people. This is left to the judiciary committee and to the fact-finding committee. However, these weapons are not used by members of the National Security and the police. These weapons could be possessed by these groups or by a third party that tried to escalate the sedition and develop it into civil war.

[Al-Qazzaz] Sir, despite what happened and as long as everyone's concern, specifically that of Fatah and the PNA, is to achieve Palestinian national unity, the question to Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency of the PNA, is as follows: Despite what happened, will you extend your hand to those who desire to hold a constructive dialogue?

['Abd-al-Rahim] For sure. The PNA is everyone's authority of and is responsible for the security of all the people, including their sectors, key figures, factions, and organized and independent forces. The PNA more than once took the initiative to hold a comprehensive dialogue among all these factions and forces. But, unfortunately, these attempts were obstructed by persistence on the part of some forces that want to escalate the sedition and which receive orders from outside. Our attempts and initiatives used to face blind bigotry, total narrowmindedness, and persistence on certain stands that contradict the first requirements of democracy and the first principles on which pluralism should be based. Nevertheless and despite what happened, the PNA, in its capacity as the mother of all, is responsible for the security of the people and is their representative. It is doing its utmost to build a strong economy; to repulse the occupation from the rest of the homeland; to release the detainees; and to achieve security and stability among the people. This continuous authority has its channels with all the forces in order to strengthen unity and to consecrate the fact that there can be no fighting among the Palestinian people, in order to champion the slogan that says: Let us build this homeland together through national unity, pluralism, democracy, based on sound foundations and principles. The minority's attempt to impose its opinion on the majority by force is something that contradicts the bases of democracy and the bases of a sound dialogue. This is nothing but dictatorship, which is rejected by all of our people's sectors.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency of the PNA. We hope to always meet you. Thank you.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you my brother.

Al-Rujub: Civil War To Be Prevented Through Dialogue

TA2011103494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service in the West Bank, says the Palestinians will not permit a civil war to break out in the territories. He said the only way to prevent such a war is by dialogue. Al-Rujub told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem he believes the Palestinians will be able to prevent a civil war, because they have no other choice. He added that although the Islamic Jihad is not participating in the negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], it will have to accept the understandings reached in these negotiations.

Al-Rujub Says Opposition Must Respect Democracy

JN2011172294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, commander of the Preventive Security Service in the occupied West Bank said today that the Palestinian people will not allow a civil war to erupt in the territories. Al-Rujub said the only way to prevent intra-Palestinian fighting is to pursue dialogue with all Palestinian forces.

Al-Rujub said there is a need to establish a democratic atmosphere that will realize the Palestinian people's ambitions. Al-Rujub called on the Palestinian opposition to abide by democracy and national interests and to respect the rules of democracy.

'Urayqat Sees Foreign Parties Behind Violence

NC2011085594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government in Jericho, by 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] To begin, could you please acquaint us with the developments in the Gaza Strip in the wake of the recent incidents?

['Urayqat] Last Friday's painful incidents have doubtlessly cast a heavy shadow over all Palestinians. The fallen victims are the sons of the Palestinian nation. During a Palestinian Authority [PA] meeting we adopted several resolutions, notably to form a judicial investigating committee in addition to a fact-finding committee. We decided to consider all the victims martyrs and assume responsibility for supporting their families. Similar decisions were made in connection with the wounded. We also decided to release all those who were detained during last Friday's incidents. The reason we decided to form a judicial investigating committee is this: Judging from X-rays shown to us by the doctors who treated the wounded and viewed the martyrs' bodies, we discovered that the ammunition that was used extensively during the incidents is of a type not possessed by the PA authorities or the Palestinian National Security Forces. Plastic bullets and dum-dum bullets had been used. All these matters, including X-rays, were submitted to us by experts during the PA meeting. We thank God for the understanding shown by all notables, intellectuals, and men of goodwill in our ranks. Long meetings were held during which matters were discussed in depth. We cannot possibly speak of the Palestinians as if there were disputes, opposition, and divergent views. There is only a single authority and the law is over everyone. I hope that the judicial investigating committee will very soon be able to submit its documented findings about last Friday's incidents to Palestinian, Arab, and international public opinion. I believe that foreign parties are trying to encourage sedition and provoke a civil war.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do you know who these parties are? Where were the weapons and ammunition obtained?

['Urayqat] As I said before, I do not believe that any Palestinians, whether belonging to the PA or not, have such ammunition. This is well-known. I am not here giving the results of the investigation. As I said a judicial investigating committee has been formed whose task is to submit its documented findings, including some shown to us, to the entire world. I believe this was a major conspiracy to provoke a civil war. Demonstrations by opposition Palestinian factions have been occurring since the PA was established. This is natural and no one clashed with them. God willing, last Friday's incident will not recur.

I believe that we are all targets. As I said, all these matters are chronological. Israel continues to resort to procrastination with regard to the peace process and maintains the mentality of an occupation state. The presence of settlements in the heart of some Gaza's areas is absolutely unjustified. The procrastination in the elections process, placing obstacles and setting conditions in the face of the elections are all unjustified. These elections, as you know, which are unanimously approved by our people, should have been held five months ago, precisely on 13 July as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles.

The donor states, which decided to finance the infrastructure projects—water, electricity, sewage, roads, health, and education—with US $347 million within the first six months, have in fact only made available six percent without any excuse, although there is a complete agreement between the PA and the World Bank on the one hand and between the PA and the donor states on the other.

All these matters do not contradict the fact that the Palestinian people should demonstrate that the only way to ensure cooperation between us and those supporting or opposing the peace process and also between us and those supporting or opposing the authority is through dialogue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What you are saying is that the incidents on Friday [18 November] were triggered by foreign factors. But where is the PA's role?

['Urayqat] The PA has since the start been trying, though with very limited capabilities, to carry out its tasks and shoulder the responsibilities and burdens. But I am not trying to put the blame on anyone. What I am saying is that those following up the events could easily deduce the unequivocal evidence from the X-rays, analysis, and statements by the injured.

Furthermore, eight of the martyrs belong to the Fatah sons. They were killed at short range and with strange bullets and strange weapons. These matters are now known not only to the Authority but also to all the Palestinian people. The opposition factions, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other political and independent movements, held lengthy meetings on the issue. Our primary slogan as sons of the Palestinian people is: Yes to the national unity and no to fratricide. Nobody is interested in this infighting. Those who followed the events would find out that the dictum of those supporting or opposing peace is that Palestinian blood is sacred.

I believe that the judicial investigations into what happened on Friday, 18 November, would reveal to everyone that there are hidden hands that are trying to foment fratricide.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Fatah Leaflet Blames Hamas, Islamic Jihad

TA2011093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Palestinian Authority [PA] source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PA respects the conciliation and mediation efforts being carried out by various elements, but everyone must realize that the PA is the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people. The PA is determined to impose law and order in all areas under its control and provide maximum security to all its citizens. The senior source added that the PA takes a grave view of the harm done to public property at cinemas and video shops and threats made by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] against various institutions in the Gaza Strip. According to the source this is an attempt by Hamas to impose its political and social ideology in the Gaza Strip. The senior source noted that the PA will not tolerate this situation.

The Fatah movement in Gaza blames Hamas and Islamic Jihad for the provocations during the bloody incidents in Gaza last Friday, and of murdering most of the residents who were killed during the incident. In a leaflet issued in Gaza this morning, Fatah claims that Hamas organized beforehand for clashes with the Palestinian police, and even prepared a plan to open fire at the policemen. The leaflet accuses Hamas and Islamic Jihad members of using dumdum bullets which, according to doctors' claims, caused some of the casualties and wounds. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the Fatah movement in Gaza called on its members to unite around 'Arafat's leadership, and to come forward with any piece of information which could help prevent such future acts on the part of Hamas.

Mission of Fatah Committees in Gaza Detailed

TA2211085594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah has set up seven emergency committees in the Gaza Strip which will operate alongside the Palestinian police against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. The committees are made up of armed Fatah members. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] The Fatah organization in the Gaza Strip will henceforth operate alongside the Palestinian police to protect the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Last night, Fatah set up seven emergency committees: one in the Jabalyah refugee camp, two in the city of Gaza, one in the refugee camps in the center of the Gaza Strip, one in Khan Yunus, and two in Rafah. The committees will include members of the Fatah Hawks who were formerly on Israel's wanted list and who will now operate as Fatah's military arm, this time against Hamas. Dhiyab al-Lawh, a Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip, told us yesterday:

[Al-Lawh] We feel and believe that the opposition is planning a confrontation with the authorities. For its part, the Fatah movement will not let anybody make a mockery of the authorities or harm the historic achievement we attained. In other words, Fatah will not sit idly by in the face of what is happening in the field. Follow-up committees will deal with all the developments in the field. The Fatah leadership will be in the picture and will issue the appropriate guidelines and instructions on how to deal with each and every case.

[Ben-Menahem] Fatah sources say that last week's bloody events created the impression that the Palestinian police are emulating the Israeli occupation and tarnished their image as the body that upholds law and order. The intention now is to let the Fatah Hawks, armed and in plainclothes, tackle the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam activists in the field.

Fatah activists will deploy in the area. They will write pro-PA graffiti, erase pro-Hamas and pro-Islamic Jihad slogans, guard public institutions, and report to the Fatah leadership on Hamas and Islamic Jihad plans to stage demonstrations and marches. Fatah will use its grass roots to prevent riots from spreading from Gaza to other towns and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. The question now is whether Hamas will tolerate this move. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi, Hamas Spokesman View Gaza Incidents

NC2011112894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 20 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Red Crescent Chairman Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has stated that the situation in Gaza is calm thanks to the good offices of all parties. He added that the atmosphere has become appropriate to begin a dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Islamic groups—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad; prevent the recurrence of violence; and achieve accord among the various parties. This came in an exclusive statement that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi has made to a MENA correspondent in Gaza.

It should be recalled that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi had played a major role in the contacts between the PA and the Islamic groups. Dr. Haydar, however, refrained from taking part in the fact-finding mission formed by the PA Council of Ministers yesterday in view of his prior engagements.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Hamas official spokesman, accused Israel of being responsible for the regrettable events in Gaza two days ago. In an exclusive statement, Dr. al-Zahhar welcomed the dialogue with PA provided every side would maintain its beliefs and political ideas. Dr. al-Zahhar pointed out that Hamas continues to reject the Oslo Agreement. It also refuses to get involved in any fighting against any Palestinian side. Hamas does not recognize the Israeli presence in the Palestinian territories, the Hamas official spokesman said.

PA-Hamas Reconcilitation Efforts Reported

'Sources': Reconciliation 'Failed'

TA2011192694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources have said that the contacts with the Palestinian Authority [PA] toward reconciliation have failed and that the sides have achieved no agreement.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the military arm of Hamas, tonight published a leaflet threatening to avenge the Gaza massacre carried out by the Palestinian police in the right place at the right time.

Mediation Team Promotes Probe of Incident

NC2011214094 Paris AFP in English 2115 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza CITY, Gaza Strip, Nov 20 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat accused the Islamic opposition on Sunday of planning the Gaza violence in which 15 people died and praised his security forces for showing restraint since the killings.

Israeli Arab mediators, meanwhile, said they were close to an agreement between 'Arafat's self-rule authority and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to set up a neutral investigation.

'Arafat, in his first statement to reporters, said Islamic fundamentalists had opened fire several times on Gaza City's central jail since the clashes on Friday in which 14 civilians and a policeman were killed.

The clashes outside a mosque pitted supporters of Hamas, which opposes the PLO's self-rule deal with Israel, against the police.

"The police officers within (the prison) managed to control themselves. There are plenty of arms there but the officers were restrained," said the chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA].

"Unfortunately all these incidents were not unplanned," said 'Arafat.

He also held up X-rays he said were of people killed on Friday. They showed a type of bullet the authority says are not used by its security forces, 'Arafat said.

Earlier on Sunday, the PLO leader called for Palestinian unity when he briefly addressed some 500 supporters. [passage omitted]

Mahmud al-Zahhar, a leader of Hamas, met an Israeli-Arab mediation team on Sunday to try and find a compromise to allow the movement to join an inquiry into the killings.

Talib al-Sana'i, an MP in the Israeli parliament, said they were seeking to replace a clause blaming the authority for the bloodshed.

"Until now we can't reach an agreement with the authority," al-Zahhar said. "They have met all our conditions except one: we place responsibility on the Authority for what happened and cannot accept their charge that we shot."

Among Hamas conditions for a reconciliation are the release of those arrested on Friday, the formation of a neutral investigative committee and an end to alleged police provocation.

Since the killings, police have been ordered to keep a low profile, and 31 of 50 Islamic fundamentalists arrested have been released.

PA, Hamas Reach Agreement; Terms Detailed

TA2111062294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement has been reached between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and it has also been accepted by the other Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat endorsed the principles of the agreement, and all the parties will publish a joint communique later today. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] Contacts between the PA and Hamas continued throughout the night in order to reach this agreement. The contacts were mostly handled by mediators from the Israeli Arab community, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Secretary General Muhammad Baraka, Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani', and Shaykh Jum'a Qasasi from Rahat. Large groups of notables from Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem also visited the Gaza Strip yesterday, including the PA mufti, 'Akramah Sabri. They met with Yasir 'Arafat to express their support, and the PLO chairman asked them to remain in the Gaza Strip all night to help ease tensions. At the same time, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi held contacts to reach an agreement. As reported to us by HADASH Secretary General Muhammad Baraka, it was the Israeli Arab representatives who were ultimately successful in hammering out an agreement. The mediators conducted the talks at the home of Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of the Hamas political wing.

The main difficulty in formulating the understandings was the Hamas demand that the PA admit its direct responsibility for the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip. Yasir 'Arafat vehemently rejected this demand for several days. Apparently, it was eventually decided that the public and judicial inquiry commissions, whose establishment was decided upon by the PA, will determine which party bears responsibility for the violence. All the parties to the agreement promised to accept the committees' conclusions. It was also agreed that the duration of the committees' mandate will be decided in advance by both parties, that all the prisoners arrested during and following last Friday's incidents in Gaza will be released, and that joint field committees will be set up to ease tensions. All the organizations that are signatories to the agreement will distribute leaflets calling for calm.

Although the contacts were held mainly between the PA and Hamas, other organizations, such as the Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have apparently accepted the conditions stipulated by the agreement. Yasir 'Arafat has endorsed a draft copy of the agreement. PA sources say that this agreement will bolster 'Arafat's standing, after the PLO chairman refused to give in and, throughout all the negotiations, rejected Hamas' demand that the PA assume direct responsibility for the events.

The very important question of whether Hamas can effectively implement the agreement on the ground remains unresolved. Last night, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the Hamas military arm, published a militant leaflet in which it threatens to carry out acts of vengeance against the PA for what it described as the massacre in Gaza. In the leaflet, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads declare that the PA will be surprised by our vengeance, which will come at the right time and place. The leaflet also warns that 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam will only stop the violence after the PA tries and executes the criminals who perpetrated the massacre. [end recording]

Al-Tibi Confirms Agreement Reached With Hamas

JN2011164594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, said today the mediation committee has reached an agreement formula between the National Authority and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] regarding the Gaza incidents.

He said the mediation committee, led by Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, head of the Arab Local Councils Regional Committee; and Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic movement inside the green line, exerted great efforts over the past two days to reach an agreement between the Fatah and Hamas movements and that a mini- committee will meet today to discuss differences about responsibility for the recent incidents.

Dr. al-Tibi said mediation efforts to contain differences and the sedition began on the first day of the incident at the instructions of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the National Authority.

Committee for Defending Charter Condemns 'Massacre'

JN2111091094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Provisional Preparatory Committee for Defending the [Palestinian National] Charter and the Palestinian People's Rights has asserted that the heinous massacre committed in Gaza by the 'Arafat-led limited self-rule authority epitomizes the repressive and mission-orientated functions of the authority ruling in Gaza and Jericho enshrined in the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

In a statement yesterday, the committee reiterated that this massacre was a premeditated act carried out in compliance with demands by Israeli officials that the self-rule authority demonstrate good conduct by restraining the growing popular opposition to its practices, as well as the practices of its security organs.

The statement added: The limitations of the Oslo and Cairo agreements have been exposed to the Palestinian people's masses. This, coupled with the Palestinian Authority's impotence, as manifested in its failure to convene a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee—which sought to pave the way for convening a Palestine National Council session to revoke the Palestinian National Charter at the behest of Israeli Prime Minister

Yitzhaq Rabin—have prompted the Palestinian Authority and its security organs to carry out their heinous massacre against innocent civilians in Gaza on Black Friday.

The committee urged the Palestinian people to preserve their national unity, and not to allow themselves to be dragged into the furnace of the intra-Palestinian strife designed by Israel.

Hamas' al-Zahhar on Gaza Clashes, Conditions

JN2011135994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Interview with Hamas official Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar by 'Umar Zaydani on 20 November; place not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Zahhar] We hold the Palestinian Authority, led by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, responsible for what happened on Friday. 'Arafat is the decision maker. He gave the orders to open fire, which resulted in this massacre. Therefore, and until the official and popular investigation committees, in which all parties, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the opposition, should participate, announce their findings on this issue, things should be straightened out and 'Arafat must be held responsibile. He has done so implicitly when he said the families of the martyrs should be compensated and those injured should be treated at the authority's expense.

[Zaydani] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, are there any conditions set by Hamas in order to reach agreement with the Palestinian Authority?

[Al-Zahhar] Yes, but these conditions are not conditions, in fact. They are more of a method through which the Islamic movement's perception of how such regrettable and bloody events can be averted in the future can be made real. First of all, we hold Mr. 'Arafat responsible for this incident. The authority should have the courage to say this frankly. Second, we insist that the investigation committees are binding, especially the popular committees. Third, the culprits must stand in a fair trial. Fourth, the authority should not resort to arrests without any legal grounds.

So, we call for the release of all prisoners of all leanings. The Palestinian Authority should not provoke people through such actions like car inspection and mounting barricades. As a matter of fact, this is what Israel was doing. Other measures should be taken and followed up by forming an emergency committee to contain this problem and solve any future problems.

[Al-Zaydani] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, don't you think that confrontation between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad on the one hand, and the Palestinian Authority on the other was inevitable, given the fact that there is an official Palestinian police force and movements carrying arms in Gaza?

[Al-Zahhar] The assumption that conflict or fight is inevitable is wrong. The latest incident is not justified. The authority's shooting at worshipers before the end of prayers and the removal of loudspeakers carried on carts on the pretext that the authority has a prestige that should be respected is not justified. The authority's prestige was badly harmed following the recent incidents. What remained of the authority's popularity was lost after these incidents. Therefore, we say that confrontation was not necessary and there was no provocation or mobilization on the part of the Islamic movement. All Hamas demonstrations since the advent of the authority were staged in agreement with the authority. It was agreed with the authority that a eulogy ceremony would be held on Friday in al-Shuja'yiah. There was no justification for any confrontations. Some might believe that Hamas is staging demonstrations that are illegal or not agreed on with the authority. This is not true. We call on the authority to declare its position on this issue and say what the position of the Islamic Resistance Movement has been since the advent of the authority and to announce whether this movement has offered any provocations to embarrass the authority.

Says Problems With PA Remain Unresolved

JN2011191394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1612 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Interview with Hamas official Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar by Hasan Abu-Zayid, in Gaza on 20 November; place not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar: The meeting held with you and a number of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members by the members of the higher follow-up committee ended a few moments ago. What are the latest developments on this issue?

[Al-Zahhar] First, the meeting was not held with me or with members of the Hamas Movement. It was held with Islamic and national forces currently present in the Palestinian arena. In the meeting, some proposals, which have been outstanding since yesterday, were discussed. These problems have not yet been resolved.

The objective of discussing these issues is to avert possible similar bloody and regrettable incidents in the future. The objective is not to register points for one party against the other. What happened yesterday was a loss for all Palestinians, in or outside the occupied territories.

[Abu-Zayid] Abu-Khalid [al-Zahhar]: This means that no breakthrough has been achieved in the negotiations between the [Palestinian] Authority [PA] and the Islamic movements?

[Al-Zahhar] As I told you, the talk was about the Islamic and national movements and about some other figures who are concerned with this issue. God willing, we hope there will be a solution to many issues, which will serve the interest of all.

[Abu-Zayid] What are the things that prevented reaching an agreement this evening?

[Al-Zahhar] In fact, our position is that we hold the PA responsible. The PA has begun to change its position toward all Palestinians on the street by creating political currents and disputes between Fatah and Hamas as though this is the topical issue raised now. Moreover, several repercussions have occurred, such as what was published in the newspapers today and the call for eulogizing the martyrs at the al-Yarmuk playground tomorrow, as if the martyrs were only from Fatah. Added to this is the leaflet distributed today in the name of Fatah.

All these things will not help calm down the situation or contain the problem. Hence, this approach needs to be considered by all Palestinians in order to circumvent these incidents for fear of repercussions that [word indistinct] cannot be controlled.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. al-Zahhar: Dr. Nabil Sha'th today said that your request to hold the PA responsible is unfair, and wondered about who set fire to cinemas and tampered with the public properties.

[Al-Zahhar] If we do not discuss the issue properly there will be a thousand questions raised similar to Sha'th's questions. Was an unlicensed march—supposing that there was an intention to stage a march—worth killing or wounding this number of people? As for the repercussions, who knows who joined the march, how he joined it, and what his objective was?

We tell the PA that our position is clear about what we did in the marches and how they were dispersed. Discussing only one aspect of this issue is an attempt to discount the seriousness of the first decision, namely the decision to open fire on citizens.

[Abu-Zayid] Abu-Khalid, the last question is: Does this mean that you will continue to demand that the PA should be held responsible for what happened?

[Al-Zahhar] Yes, until a clear picture and decision are made by competent judicial and popular committees which will make binding and obvious decisions in which all parties will participate.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar: Thank you very much.

[Al-Zahhar] Thank you.

On Conditions for 'Calming Situation'

MM2111170194 London AL SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Ali al-Salih in London, Mahmud Abu-'Id in Jerusalem, Information Services Center in Gaza, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Cairo and Amman: "Hamas Sets Its Conditions for Calming the Situation in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The Palestinian Authority [PA] yesterday announced a series of measures to defuse the crisis which erupted in the Gaza Strip, including an open inquiry into the causes of the bloody clashes which occured the day before yesterday resulting in the death of 15 people and injury of 200 others. [passage omitted]

Although some PA sources have accused the fudamentalist movements of opening fire on the police, Nabil Sha'qan, a prominent PA member, said: "We have reason to believe that there have been attempts to trigger a major civil war. We believe that these parties [behind the attempts] opened fire on both sides."

Mahmud al-Zahhar, a senior Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, has denied that "any member of his movement used arms." He challenged the Authority to "name the officer it claimed" was killed in the clashes of the day before yesterday.

He said that "what happened was a continuation of the practices of the Fatah-dominated Authority, which is full of agents who have been given senior posts in it." He said he was even prepared to disclose their names. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Zahhar accused the police of using Grenov-500 machineguns [as published]. On [Hamas'] use of dumdum bullets, al-Zahhar stressed that Hamas "does not have that kind of ammunition." [passage omitted]

Al-Zahhar said that his movement's conditions for calming the situation were the following: That the Authority and its leader, by virtue of his position, are held responsible; that there should be some reassurance and that some measures should be taken for that purpose; that a neutral fact-finding committee be formed; that all the detainees should be released and the police withdrawn from assembly points and from areas around schools; that all forms of police provocations should be stopped; and, finally, that the Authority should purge itself of the agents and take a clear stand regarding them. [passage omitted]

'Only Certain Clauses' Concluded With PA

TA2111092494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, says that no agreement has been signed yet between the Islamic Movement and the Palestinian Authority [PA], and only certain clauses have been agreed upon.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Mahmud al-Zahhar noted that no agreement has been reached with regard to his movement's demand that the

PA assume direct responsibility for last Friday's bloodshed in the Gaza Strip and that the issue was deferred for later discussion.

Hamas' Ghawshah Calls For Elections in Gaza

JN2011145394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite current efforts to contain the results of the bloody Gaza incidents between Palestinians, the atmosphere is still stormy and tense. Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] not only holds the Palestinian Authority [PA] responsible for the incident, but also believes this authority is illegitimate. It calls for the election of a provisional leadership to save Palestinians from the crisis. This is what Ibrahim Ghawshah, official Hamas spokesman, who lives in Amman, said when he was asked about Hamas' position today by our correspondent Ahmad Birru:

[Begin recording] [Ghawshah] First and last, the PA is responsible for the terrible massacre that occurred in the Gaza Strip the day before yesterday. It is well known that the military cannot do anything without a decision by the political leadership. This was said by Nasr Yusuf [commander of the Palestinian Security Forces] during his interview with AL-SABIL newspaper. The political leadership, represented by 'Arafat, is responsible, first and last. The members of the proposed popular committee, who will be elected from among people known for their sound decisions and their courage, should be given every facility to investigate and explore reality. Every suspected person should be questioned by the committee. The perpetrators should be punished.

[Birru] In statements today, you said the PA, led by 'Arafat, was illegitimate. You called for electing a provisional Palestinian leadership to overcome the crisis. You also told Paris Radio Monte Carlo that Hamas will not take part in any elections within the framework of the self-rule agreement. Is there any new development in Hamas' position on this agreement?

[Ghawshah] First, the PA does not indeed represent the Palestinian people. Those who went to Madrid, Oslo, and Cairo do not represent the Palestinian people. They were not elected by the Palestinian people, but were imposed on them by a well-known colonialist power. Regarding elections, Hamas does not contradict itself. It refuses to take part in the so-called self-rule elections because they will be the offspring of the Oslo-Cairo agreement. In light of the recent developments in the Gaza Strip, the grave crisis and tension, and to overcome this crisis, matters should take the correct course. In other words, a million Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip should be allowed to elect their true leadership from among the people, under the auspices of a neutral party. He who is elected will lead the people at this dangerous stage. 'Arafat, his clique, and the Palestinian police, some of whom are nationalist, honest, and honorable, should stop shedding the blood of the Palestinian people. We reject this. The free world should allow the Palestinian people to elect their leadership by themselves. [end recording]

Now, we will listen to what we can call an indirect reply from al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the PA, regarding responsibilities.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Rahim] First, I am surprised by that statement from a person who is outside the homeland and who has nothing to do with what is taking place on national soil. We hold Hamas and some other forces fully responsible for took place. They prepared for this incident by making Molotov bombs, collecting stones, knives, and swords, and by putting armed men on the roofs of buildings around the mosque. The Palestinian police were not present in the area, except for two vehicles containing six or seven personnel. After the end of prayers, we were surprised by gunfire inside the mosque. As a result, eight Fatah members were martyred. They were shot in their heads by pistols at close range inside the mosque. Four of them were martyred outside the mosque, and then a ninth was martyred. Hamas lost only one member.

[Birru] Hamas demands an investigation by a neutral committee. Will the PA pledge to punish those who are proved to be responsible for the incident?

['Abd-al-Rahim] There is one point, brother, which is well known by all countries to be right. A judiciary committee was formed by the authority. Despite this, the PA has formed a fact-finding commission from among all the forces and figures in Gaza so the investigation can be integral and prove that the armed men of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad deliberately fabricated this problem.

[Birru] You say a third party interfered to fabricate the clashes. Who is that third party? Do you have any proof?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We do not have plastic and dumdum bullets, which were used in the incident. Either Hamas obtained them before the establishment of the PA when they were allowed to have weapons to confront the PLO, or certain agents interfered and tried to escalate the tension. [end recording]

Further on Call for Elections

JN2011193594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As part of the growing accusations between Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian Authority [PA] regarding responsibility for the Gaza incidents, Hamas has held the PA leadership and Yasir 'Arafat personally responsible. It called for electing an alternative provisional Palestinian leadership under international auspices. Hamas' positions were announced by the movement's spokesman, Ibrahim Ghawshah, who spoke from Amman.

[Begin recording] [Ghawshah] First and last, the PA is responsible for the terrible massacre that occurred in Gaza Strip the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Ahmad Birru] Do you believe neutral elections can be held and a provisional Palestinian leadership elected, as you say?

[Ghawshah] Yes, this is possible if there is an international will to hold such elections. Similar elections were held in South Africa after 300 years, and the world knew who represented the people in South Africa. We want the world to know who represents the Palestinian people by holding free and fair direct elections for the people, outside the framework of the Oslo or Cairo agreement. Afterwards, elections can spread to all Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories].

[Birru] Is there any possibility of a temporary understanding with Fatah leadership and the PA?

[Ghawshah] Fatah is now required to identify itself. Is it part of the Palestinian people? If yes, Fatah, Hamas, and the rest of the Palestinian forces are brothers. Or is it part of the authority? If yes, it will be viewed as part of the Zionist entity, which wants to undermine the aspirations and resistance of the Palestinian people.

[Birru] Does this mean that all channels of communication have been cut off between Hamas and the 'Arafat-led PA?

[Ghawshah] The only channel still open is what the current committee will say on the current incidents. However, the massacre will not be forgotten. This is unacceptable. The blood of the Palestinian people is not cheap for 'Arafat or others. If 'Arafat is responsible, he should accept it and should bear the consequences, as officials in free democratic states do. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Palestinian National Authority responded violently to Hamas' accusations and held the movement responsible. It also gave evidence and stressed that the Palestinian National Authority was the only authority in charge of running Palestinian affairs and maintaining Palestinian security, as PA Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said.

[Begin recording] ['Ad-al-Rahim] First, I am surprised by that statement from that person who is outside the homeland and who has nothing to do with what is taking place on the national soil. [passage omitted]

We examined X-ray pictures taken by specialized doctors of many wounded people who were hit by that kind of bullets.

[Birru] Are there direct negotiations between Hamas and the PA, and, if there are, what are the results of these negotiations?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We cannot say direct or indirect negotiations. There is only one side, namely, the PA. However, we are eager to maintain Palestinian national unity and political pluralism. Unity has specific bases and pluralism also has its own pillars. Everybody should observe these matters. Goodwill offices are being conducted by some forces and figures from the 1948 Arabs, from Gaza, from the West Bank, or from elsewhere. We open our doors for them and make all facts available. But we were surprised by Hamas accusing brother Yasir 'Arafat, the PA, and some individuals of opening fire. This is the duty of the investigation commission, which will expose all facts to people. Therefore, media uproar will not work. [end recording]

Hamas Issues Press Statement on Gaza Incidents

JN2011210794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a press statement denouncing the 'Arafatist massacre and welcoming the calls issued by the honest and honorable sons of our people to ease the situation. Hamas also demanded the following:

1. 'Arafat's authority should claim responsibility for the terrible massacre.

2. A popular investigation committee should be set up with the participation of various parties in the Palestinian community. A fact-finding committee should also be formed to investigate the circumstances of the massacre, providing that the 'Arafatist authority commits itself to facilitating the tasks of these two committees.

3. Immediately releasing all detainees held in the 'Arafatist jails in Gaza.

4. Setting up a field emergency committee with the participation of all parties in order to calm the situation and provide the necessary guarantees to prevent regrettable incidents in the future.

5. Halting the provocative practices of the 'Arafatist police.

6. Purging the Palestinian community and all its institutions of agents and collaborators.

7. The 'Arafatist authority should pledge to pay compensation for all human and material losses by taking care of the families of the martyrs and wounded, paying the expenses of treating the wounded, and paying appropriate compensation to the citizens whose property was damaged due to the massacre.

Concluding its statement, Hamas said its reply to the hideous massacre will take the form of escalating resistance, jihad, and heroic operations.

Hamas Armed Wing Wants Gaza Incident Culprits Executed

NC2011205494 Paris AFP in English 2019 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 20 (AFP)—The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam armed wing of

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] called Sunday [20 November] for the execution of those responsible for Gaza clashes in which 15 Palestinians were killed.

The self-run authority headed by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat must "put on trial and execute the criminals" who are to blame for Friday's bloodshed during clashes in Gaza City, it said in a statement distributed here.

"We know very well who these killers are who sold their soul to the devil. They will not have no sleep or rest from today," the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam statement said, giving the initials of four policemen.

The clashes pitted Islamic fundamentalists against Palestinian police.

The armed wing of Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) called for the dismissal of several figures in the self-rule security apparatus, including "traitor" Nasr Yusuf, who is in charge of security.

Ghazi Jabali, the Palestinian police chief, and justice "minister" Furayh Abu-Middayn must also go, it said.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam warned it had decided to "retaliate for the Gaza massacre at a time of its choosing," and that the Palestinian authority would be "surprised when it sees our revenge."

The Hamas political leadership, which is negotiating with the authority, in general denies any link with the military wing. Hamas has called for attacks on Israeli troops and settlers to avenge the Gaza killings.

Hamas: 'Arafat Must Take Blame for Gaza Bloodshed

NC2111110194 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 21 (AFP)—The Islamic group Hamas insisted Monday [21 November] that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat take the blame for the explosion of violence in Gaza before any accord on bringing peace to the territory.

The Palestinian self-rule authority headed by 'Arafat was "responsible for what happened," on Friday [18 November] when 15 people died in clashes, Hamas official 'Imad Faluji told AFP. "No agreement will be possible until it admits it."

Fears were raised of civil war after Palestinian policemen battled with supporters of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Gaza leaving 14 civilians and a policeman dead and 200 people wounded.

Faluji said that Hamas, which opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process, had reached broad agreement with the 'Arafat authority at talks on defusing the situation which were to continue on Monday.

They had agreed to set up a public enquiry into Friday's bloodshed comprising members of all shades of Palestinian opinion.

But he added: "The Palestinian Authority must take responsibility for the massacre, at least pending the conclusions of the enquiry."

'Arafat called for "national unity" on Sunday but charged that the fundamentalists who fought running battles with his policemen on Friday had planned the confrontation and received their orders from abroad.

Israeli communist party leader Muhammad Barak, who led mediation efforts, said that 'Arafat and representatives of the main militant groups—Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—had agreed to work together to avoid further bloodshed.

But he said that 'Arafat had categorically rejected a demand from Hamas delegate Mahmud al-Zahhar that the Authority accept responsibility for the clashes.

The make-up of the commission of enquiry into Friday's killings and its terms of reference would be decided in all-party discussions, Barak said.

Barak said the deal did not provide for the disarming of the fundamentalists or an end to anti-Israeli attacks from within the Gaza Strip or from Jericho, which is also under Palestinian control.

Meanwhile, the Authority released 10 Islamic Jihad members who had been held for 10 days, bringing to 40 the number freed from the 150 rounded up after a suicide bombing which killed three Israeli soldiers on November 11.

The Palestinian Authority on Sunday freed 31 of 50 HAMAS militants arrested after Friday's clashes.

Hamas Calls Pro-'Arafat Rally 'Disgusting Sham'

NC2111211194 Paris AFP in English 2016 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Nov 21 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) denounced a rally held on Monday [21 November] in Gaza to muster support for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as a "disgusting" sham.

"Organising this rally at a time of continued efforts to defuse tension, and the heavy shooting in the air by Palestinian police and Fatah cadres is a disgusting show of force which prompted our people's dismay and fury," a HAMAS official said in a communique obtained by AFP.

The official said that unlike Hamas, 'Arafat could not foster enough popular support and plain-clothes Palestinian policemen had been prodded into joining the rally in a fake show of solidarity.

More than 15,000 Palestinians rallied in the autonomous Gaza Strip on Monday [21 November] in a show of strength after Islamic militants blamed 'Arafat for Friday's [18 November] blood-bath in Gaza.

'Arafat, facing his worst crisis since returning from exile in July, told the crowd that the rally was a "referendum in favor of the PLO, of the Palestinian Authority and of the peace process."

It came three days after the street battles between Islamic fundamentalists and Palestinian police which killed 16 and left 200 wounded.

'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas official, said earlier in Gaza that talks on restoring calm in the autonomous area would continue but "no agreement will be possible" until 'Arafat's authority took responsibility for the bloodshed.

Hamas Plans 'Major Rally' in Gaza Strip 25 Nov

NC2211091994 Paris AFP in English 0840 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 22 (AFP)—The hardline Islamic group Hamas is to stage a major rally on Friday, a week after 16 died in clashes between its supporters and Palestinian police, the organisation said Tuesday.

Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority has given approval for the rally, Hamas officials said. It will be held in the memory of a Hamas military chief, 'Imad 'Aql, who was killed a year ago by Israeli undercover soldiers.

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, is distributing leaflets and painting slogans on walls to whip up support for the demonstration.

More than 15,000 pro-Arafat Palestinians rallied in Gaza City on Monday [21 November] as the PLO leader came under fire from fundamentalists who blame him for Friday's [18 November] bloodshed, in which 15 demonstrators and a policeman were killed.

Hamas Leaflet: Israel To Remain 'Our Only Enemy'

TA2211114194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 94 p A4

[Report by Gaza Strip correspondent 'Amira Hess]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflets issued yesterday again hold the Palestinian Authority [PA] responsible for the recent riots. In one leaflet, Hamas claims that some of the PA statements present distorted facts. [passage omitted]

The second leaflet contends, however, that Hamas "will not fall into the trap, and Israel will remain our only enemy." If Palestinian policemen hurt Hamas members again, the leaflet says, Hamas will react by hurting Jews. The leaflet adds that "by announcing his willingness to compensate the bereaved families, 'Arafat has indirectly taken responsibility for the Friday massacre." [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Movement Statement on Gaza Incidents

JN2011204594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1808 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has issued a statement emphasizing its consistent and principled position which rejects Palestinian infighting and calls for using weapons only against the occupation. The movement believes the current situation can only be eased by taking the following measures:

1. Setting up an honest and neutral investigation committee with full powers from among Palestinian personalities and bodies that enjoy the respect and approval of all. Such a committee would investigate the reasons behind Friday's bloody and sad massacre, define those responsible, and request bringing them to justice.

2. Addressing the violations and irresponsible acts made by 'Arafat's authority and ending both this authority's submission to the Zionist dictates and its response to Rabin's orders to repress our people and their militant forces.

3. Putting an end to Mosad's exposed agents who move freely, wreak havoc among people, carry arms publicly, and take part in the criminal liquidation and assassination of our mujahidin, as happened in the assassination of mujahid Hani 'Abid.

4. Immediately and unconditionally releasing the detainees of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine and of other Islamic and national forces and movements who are detained in the self-rule jails.

The movement held 'Arafat's weak authority fully responsible for the massacre and for its submission to the Zionist enemy's dictates. It added that the massacre was planned and was preceded by several signs.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Dialogue With 'Arafat

BR2111123394 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 20 Nov 94 p 7

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Shami, "political leader of Islamic Jihad," by Lorenzo Cremonesi in Gaza; date not given; "Islam Justifies Martyrdom"—first paragraph is CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Even 'Abdallah al-Shami now launches an appeal to seek a compromise with 'Arafat. The political leader of Islamic Jihad (the "holy war"), the group with the deepest roots among the Palestinian Islamists, shows no hesitation. "Things cannot go on like this. Civil war does the Palestinian cause no good, it only helps the Zionists. The time has come to lay down our arms and seek the path of dialogue with 'Arafat," he said in his house in one of Gaza's poorest quarters.

[Cremonesi] Islamic Jihad militants are shouting in the streets that 'Arafat is a traitor. Do you agree?

[Al-Shami] His accord with the Israelis has reduced him to the role of a policeman under Yitzhaq Rabin's orders. In my view he has behaved like a traitor toward his people. But we must also remember that he is a Palestinian, a son of our people, with whom it is possible to reach an accord if he shows himself willing to change his policy.

[Cremonesi] What are your conditions for initiating talks between Islamic Jihad and the PLO in order to bring peace to Gaza.

[Al-Shami] First of all I demand that it hand over the policemen responsible for the massacre and free the 150 Islamic Jihad militants still locked up in their cells in Gaza jail. After that, I will be the first to press for direct dialogue.

[Cremonesi] You are a practising Muslim but you have praised the kamikaze attacks on more than one occasion while well aware that Islam harshly condemns suicide. How do you reconcile the two things?

[Al-Shami] I think that the struggle for the freedom of this land, sacred to Islam, fully justifies the suicidal actions of our martyrs. I know that several dozen young people are ready to make the sacrifice and I will certainly not be the one to stop them.

Al-Shami on PA, Peace Process

JN2011175994 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 21 Nov 94 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, official spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement in the Gaza Strip, in Gaza "last week"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MUHARRIR] What is your assessment of the situation four months after the Palestinian Authority [PA] assumed its duties?

[Al-Shami] The Palestinian people longed for big changes, especially after the Israeli occupation was removed and replaced by a Palestinian authority. This authority promised to provide security and safety; to achieve economic progress for our people; to release the detainees; and to return the deportees and the displaced.

Four months after the assumption of authority, we do not sense any actual change in the situation. Only a very minor change was sensed on the security level, until the recent raids on houses, which brought us back to the atmosphere of the occupation. This is especially true with the escalation of a wave of unjustified arrests of strugglers from the Islamic Jihad and Hamas Movements.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What is the Islamic Jihad's position on the ongoing peace process?

[Al-Shami] Peace in itself is demanded by every human being in all parts of the world. However, what sort of peace did Israel offer or is willing to offer? Israel does not want to give us any of our rights or any of our people's rights. It wants us to be the first step on its way to entering all the Arab countries, which in turn will provide it with security and piece of mind. Israel wants us to be a gateway to the Arab and Islamic world.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What obstacles prevent the PA from finding solutions to the living and economic problems in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Shami] The PA confined itself to the Gaza Strip and to promises by European countries and the United States to rebuild the Gaza Strip by offering billions of dollars that would help in providing job opportunities for our people. However, the PA forgot that those countries are looking after their own interests as well as Israel's interests in the region.

[AL-MUHARRIR] So, according to your analysis, do you expect the PA to adopt more isolationist and intransigent positions?

[Al-Shami] Yes. We are seeing now how the Israeli authorities are pressuring the PA into repressing the Islamic moment, especially Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. The more the PA proceeds with this course the more doors it will open for the resistance, and vice versa.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Shaykh 'Abdallah, what are your observations about the Palestinian-Israeli accord? Do you completely oppose this accord, or do you oppose some of its provisions which you believe are unjust?

[Al-Shami] We reject the entire accord because it legitimizes the occupying state. The state of Israel has no right to exist over the land of Palestine. Recognizing the legitimacy of Israel is a disavowal of our people's right. We have been against the legitimacy of the occupation from the beginning. The entire land is owned by our people. We do not mind if the Jews want to live on our land. However, we will not agree whatsoever to live under their flag and under their control.

[AL-MUHARRIR] So, you are against any peaceful solution with Israel. In this case, what are the points of agreement and difference between you and Hamas?

[Al-Shami] During the intifadah, Hamas Movement's policy became very close to our policy—which it opposed in the past. This was true to the point that the difference between us was no longer apparent. But the question remains: Is Hamas Movement's adoption of the jihad principle a strategic or a tactical action imposed by circumstances?

On the other hand, we fear that Hamas will change its stand toward the PA. We also fear that it will assume part of the PA's responsibilities after a while. These two points worry us the most about our Hamas brothers.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Was there any meeting between you and the Hamas Movement after the Palestinian authority assumed power?

[Al-Shami] Meetings took place between the two factions abroad. Although there were many meetings, they had no impact on Hamas in the occupied territories. It seems the Hamas leadership abroad has no power over the leadership in the occupied territories. This confirms that Hamas' center of power is in the occupied territories. Hamas abroad is just a political and media tool.

[AL-MUHARRIR] It has been noticed that the Hamas Movement recently escalated its military operations. This triggered harsh Israeli repressive measures. Do you not fear a popular reaction against you?

[Al-Shami] The Hamas Movement has its calculations and analyses. It bases its plan on these calculations. At a recent meeting between Hamas officials and 'Arafat, it was agreed that the Muslim mujahidin will not carry out operations in the self-rule areas so as not to embarrass the self-rule authorities. Many of the self-rule officials believe operations should be carried out against the occupation, but in the territories that are still occupied.

The Palestinian side used to tell us it has nothing to do with Israel's security in the territories still under occupation. But, we soon realized the Palestinian self-rule authorities had no say, even concerning the self-rule territories. Pressure was also brought to bear on the self-rule authorities in the wake of operations carried out in Israel. The closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip took place following operations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Bi'r Nabala, which are all outside the jurisdiction of the self-rule authorities. However, Rabin works to have the self-rule authorities clash with the Islamic resistance movements, specifically with all the parties that oppose the peace solution.

The escalation of operations by Hamas has its meaning and is in continuation of its past actions and within the framework of the Israeli government's threats and provocations, particularly after Israel did not respond to the Hamas conditions during its kidnapping of Israeli soldier Wachsman, the storming operation, and the victims that fell from this operation.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Are you not afraid of clashing with the PA if you or Hamas carry out new operations against Israel and if Rabin brings pressure to bear on President 'Arafat to have him choose for good between peace with Israel and combating the Islamic movements?

[Al-Shami] I believe that the PA is aware of the objectives Israel seeks to achieve from the confrontations that might turn into civil war. But, what recently took place makes us apprehensive. At the beginning, scores were arrested, and this ended with hundreds being arrested, not to mention the statements by Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian security forces who said he is ready to arrest all the Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters, but is waiting for a political decision that allows him to do so. This tone and language are not acceptable and automatically exacerbate tension and generate reactions that cannot always be controlled.

How long can the Palestinian side stand fast in the face of all the Israeli political, military, and economic pressure? This is something that one cannot easily predict, particularly when the donor countries set as a condition for their assistance that security should prevail and the opposition in the Palestinian self-rule areas should be wiped out.

[AL-MUHARRIR] More clearly, what is your position on the entire peace process? Will you, for example, confront the Jordanian-Israeli agreement the way you are now confronting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Shami] The Palestinian side is responsible for all that is taking place today. This is because no Arab regime dared sign agreements with Israel as long as the Palestine question remained unresolved.

We believe there were agreements ready to be signed by many Arab rulers and Israel. These rulers, however, could not publicly declare these agreements before resolving the Palestine question. This is true because in a few months time the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement was signed.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What about your alliances in and outside Palestine? Whom do you meet with?

[Al-Shami] The Islamic Jihad Movement rejects the state of fragmentation imposed on us by the remnants of colonialism since the Sykes-Picot agreement. We believe the whole Islamic world, and not only the Arab world, is one homeland. We cooperate and sympathize with, and also support, any revolutionary Islamic or Arab nationalist tendency that confronts this fragmentation and rejects the entrenchment of current borders. However, this phase is much more dangerous and larger than the Islamic Jihad Movement or other Islamic organizations.

We will do our utmost to change the current situation to a brighter one. We, however, realize that, at least at present, we cannot confront and thwart the U.S. onslaught on the region. This fact, however, will not prevent us from confronting and fighting this onslaught with all our means.

[AL-MUHARRIR] You expect that the peace process will continue at least for the present time, while awaiting another surprise on the track of peace?

[Al-Shami] The peace process will continue as an established fact whether we confront it or not. We, however, will not accept it. We are expecting a surprise, which will actually be no surprise.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Do you believe that your current alliances are sufficient, or do you believe they should be reconsidered?

[Al-Shami] Reconsideration should be made in each phase. What was previously agreed within the framework of the 10 factions was positive. This agreement, however, remained a mere agreement on paper and was not reflected on the ground. We expected it to be an alternative to the PLO and its current leadership. However, and according to the political calculations of some parties inside the 10 factions, these parties do not wish to lose their previous status within the PLO and its institution.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What is the truth about the recently reported divisions in the Islamic Jihad, and the al-Aqsa Battalions, for example?

[Al-Shami] There are no divisions in the Islamic Jihad Movement. There are, however, people supported by 'Arafat. They highlight the tension and chaos in the Palestinian arena. Earlier, 'Arafat tried to adopt Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi from the al-Aqsa Battalions and provided him with financial and political support. However, 'Arafat failed. He is now trying to adopt Fayiz al-Aswad in the name of the al-Aqsa Battalions on the land of Palestine. According to our information, however, 'Arafat has begun to discover that al-Aswad cannot influence the Islamic Jihad Movement and will not have a real presence on the ground.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Is there hope for you and Hamas to forge an alliance to confront the next difficult stage?

[Al-Shami] No one prefers to work alone in a field controlled by the big powers. Separate action is weak and unfeasible even if it is carried out by a strong movement such as Hamas. Joint and unified action is more effective, but this requires great efforts to overcome previous crises. Therefore, in the short run, I do not see a unified movement between the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, but I hope that this will take place in the future.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Can we conclude that it is not in the PA's interest to weaken the Islamic movement inside and outside the occupied territories because it may become its future ally in confronting Israeli designs?

[Al-Shami] The Palestinian side is aware of this basic fact, and there is a consensus on restoration of the Palestinian territories and Palestine belonging to its sons, but the situation does not allow 'Arafat to realize this. Otherwise, he would not have signed the settlement agreements. The circumstances forced him to accept this miserable situation. It is feared that he will bow to the same circumstances and current international pressures and start confronting the Islamic movement.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Then you believe that the PA will be forced to go in the direction drawn by the Israeli authorities and that a confrontation is certain?

[Al-Shami] Yes, the PA will be forced to go in this direction and its destiny is linked to this direction. It is unable to get out of this dilemma. Where will 'Arafat go if he refuses to follow this design? Before he came to Gaza, the Arab regime of the country where he was staying (that is Tunisia) pressured him and asked him to leave. So he was forced to sign in order to come to Gaza, and he was isolated in Gaza. Abroad, he had wide arenas in which he used to move, but here he is isolated.

[AL-MUHARRIR] But President 'Arafat has made several calls for responsible dialogue with the Islamic movement and the opposition in general. Why have these calls not been answered?

[Al-Shami] I do not think that 'Arafat's calls for national unity have been serious. They are just made for media purposes because these calls were not followed by practices that indciate seriousness. For example, what are the motives and where is the evidence for 'Arafat's accusing the Islamic Jihad of plotting to assassinate him although he is fully aware that the Islamic Jihad had never assassinated any leader whose policy conflicts with that of the Islamic Jihad. So in whose interest is this escalation? We views 'Aafat's presence among us as a fait accompli, and we are forced to deal with him. We prefer to deal with him in a positive manner to keep our people from unneeded sufferings. The fact is that whenever 'Arafat has a crisis with the Israeli or Jordananian parties he calls for dialogue with the opposition forces just to pressure the other sides and to strengthen his front in the eyes of other parties.

Further on al-Shami Remarks

NC2111194094 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 21 (AFP)—A prominent leader of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement, Sheikh 'Abdallah al-Shami, came out of hiding on Monday [21 November] and launched a fiery attack on the Palestinian Authority.

His family had previously said al-Shami had been arrested during a crackdown by Palestinian police after three Israeli soldiers died in a suicide bomb attack in Gaza on November 11.

But they later retracted their statement, and there had been no trace of al-Shami for several days.

Speaking to about 100 followers, al-Shami criticised the Palestinian Authority led by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat for Friday's bloody clashes between police and Islamic fundamentalists in which 16 people died.

"He who fires at our people is not a Palestinian," he said, referring to the police who for the first time since the launch of self-rule in May opened fire directly on protestors in the Gaza Strip.

"The cowardly killers will be thrown in the dustbin of history, cursed by everyone," he added.

He spoke through a loudspeaker from inside a shuttered store near the home of a Palestinian killed on Friday.

Al-Shami later told reporters "the police failed to catch me" during the crackdown after the suicide bombing by a member of the Islamic Jihad. "I am not worried and I am back home now," he added.

He said his brother Isma'il, detained about a week ago, was being held "as a hostage."

Islamic Jihad members were among hundreds of fundamentalists who battled with police outside the Palestine Mosque in Gaza City on Friday.

But al-Shami said they were not taking part in reconciliation efforts between the authority and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), a larger group.

He said any agreement reached would not be binding on Islamic Jihad, but vowed the group would only seek revenge against Israel and not against the authority.

"We do not consider the Palestinian Authority our enemy despite the crime they committed against us, and will never take revenge against our people," he said.

Ten Islamic Jihad Men Released

TA2011190494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Arab delegation has returned to Gaza to continue the effort to work out a truce between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th has told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PA rejects the Hamas demand that it take responsibility for the bloody events in Gaza.

The Palestinian police have released 10 Islamic Jihad activists detained in recent days. Our correspondent notes that 75 other Hamas and Jihad activists remain in detention.

A soldier and a border policemen were slightly injured in two stone-throwing incidents in Ramallah today. The Tulkarm curfew imposed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] after yesterday's stone-throwing incidents remains in force.

Groups' Criticism of PA Over Massacre Reported

NC2111200294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by Tehran radio's Beirut correspondent Muhammad Bishkar—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority's [PA] stubbornness regarding its refusal to shoulder the responsibility for the massacre committed by the Palestinian police against worshipers outside Filastin Mosque in Gaza City has led to destruction of the agreement announced by the liaison committee consisting of representatives of the PA and others from the Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Resistance Movement - Hamas, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. This agreement stipulated forming a committee to investigate the massacre.

All day long, there has been confusion regarding this agreement. In the end, it was finalized by a declaration from Hamas and Islamic Jihad that they refuse to participate in any investigating committee so long as 'Arafat's authority does not declare its responsibility for the massacre—something the authority has refused to do as I have already said.

Hamas' stand has been summarized for us by Dr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement - Hamas. He said:

[Begin Ghawshah recording] Hamas is careful not to let the martyrs and wounded people who fell last Friday simply pass away. The criminals who carried out this crime have to be punished for it. [end recording]

As for the Islamic Jihad stand, it was declared by Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the movement, who said in a contact we held with him:

[Begin al-Shaqaqi recording] We insist on the issue of condemning the PA. Even when we reached agreement, on our part, we were going to insist on condemning the PA all the time, while waiting for the decision to be issued. In fact, I firmly affirm the fact that this authority is not legitimate. [end recording]

The higher follow-up committee which includes Palestinian figures from outside the Gaza Strip and whose mediation led to the agreement which never saw the light will continue its efforts to end the tension, according to some of its members today. This is so despite the tension Yasir 'Arafat started today where he repeated his accusation of the Palestinian Islamic groups that they received orders from abroad during a demonstration his supporters held in Gaza City.

Opposition Alliance Statement on Gaza 'Massacre'

JN2011094894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Nov 94

["Text" of statement by the "Alliance of Palestinian Forces" dated 19 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] met today, 19 November 1994, for consultations on the steps that should be taken by the APF against the practices of 'Arafat's administration, which is subservient to the occupation. These practices against the masses of our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip come in fulfillment of Rabin's orders and those of his Zionist entity. These practices are being repeatedly perpetrated by the subservient 'Arafatist self-administration and the command of its Zionized police to suppress free and honest voices and to prevent them from expressing their rejection of the treacherous Oslo-Cairo conspiracy.

The APF examined the criminal massacre perpetrated by the 'Arafatist authority at the hands of the police and the Zionized preventive security against the sons of our people after Friday [18 November] prayers in Filastin Mosque and other areas in the steadfast Gaza Strip. In this massacre, 13 people were martyred and another 250 injured. Many of the seriously injured had heads and chests wounds. The massacre came in fulfillment of the orders given by the terrorist Rabin before he left occupied Palestine for Washington.

While recalling the massacre perpetrated by the Zionist terrorist Goldstein and Zionist settlers and soldiers a few months ago against worshipers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron on the sad dawn of that black Friday, the APF believes that the practices of 'Arafat and his subservient self-administration are a continuation and completion of the acts of Goldstein and Zionist terrorists against the masses of our mujahid and great Palestinian people. This exposes the nature of the task with which the Zionist entity has entrusted to 'Arafat's limited self-rule authority, that is, completing what the occupation failed to carry out.

While viewing yesterday's incidents in the steadfast [Gaza] Strip very seriously, the APF wishes to underscore the following:

1. We hold 'Arafat and the command of his Zionized police and preventive security accountable for this bloody massacre.

2. We condemn this criminal and terrorist action, which was perpetrated by 'Arafat's subservient administration against the masses of our rebellious, mujahid, and struggling people and against its national and Islamic vanguard.

3. We call for the punishment of the renegade killers among the Zionized self-rule authority, which planned and executed this grisly massacre against the sons of our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which was impregnable to the Zionist enemy due to the people's steadfastness, intifadah, and jihad. The subservient 'Arafat administration came to do what the terrorist Zionists failed to do.

4. We call for the immediate release of all the mujahidin and strugglers from the Zionist and 'Arafatist prisons.

5. We call on the honorable Palestinian policemen to completely stand by their people and to disobey the orders of 'Arafat and the commanders of his Zionized police and preventive security.

6. We call on the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation to express their rejection of the conspiracy of liquidating the Palestine question, the suspicious and separate deals, and the Judaization of the region under the cover of normalization.

7. We call on international human rights organization to condemn the Zionist practices and the 'Arafatist massacres against the masses and mujahid Islamic and national forces of our Palestinian people.

8. We call on the masses of our Palestinian people in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the diaspora to express their condemnation of 'Arafat's subservient self-administration and his police, which has become a Zionist ploy to execute the conspiracy of intra-Palestinian fighting and civil war which only serves the Zionist, imperialist enemy. We call on them to stage a massive demonstration in al-Yarmuk camp as well as other camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and thte diaspora. We also call on them to stage sit-ins and address memorandums to the Red Cross, the United Nations, and PLO offices. We also call for speech rallies.

[Signed] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces

Anti-'Arafat Marches in Damascus Camps Reported

JN2011140494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 94

[Report by Thana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A general strike has been observed in the Palestinian camps in Syria. Thousands of Palestinian refugees in Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus staged a mammoth demonstration led by the leaders of the 10 Palestinian factions. The demonstrators raised slogans calling for the resignation of all the self-rule officials and for 'Arafat's immediate departure from Gaza after he gave in to the wishes of the Rabin government, which encourages a civil war among the Palestinians.

Slogans denouncing the Oslo-Cairo agreement could be read on walls in the camp. The demonstrators, raising black flags, called for the trial of those who committed the massacre. They held 'Arafat fully responsible for it.

In a statement today, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced the death of martyr 'Ualyyan 'Adil 'Ulayyan who was killed by the bullets of 'Arafat's soldiers at the gate of a mosque in Gaza. The DFLP statement said 'Arafat's police arrested several DFLP members in Gaza this morning.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said the self-rule authorities' odious behavior heralds a very serious escalation of the repression and in responding to the dictates and pressure of the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

Opposition Groups Protest 'Massacre'

JN2211074194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Quds' Damascus correspondent has sent the following report on the activities of the

Alliance of the Palestinian Forces [APF] and the masses of our Arab Palestinian people in Damascus condemnation of the massacre perpetrated by 'Arafat and his police force on the sad Friday [18 November]:

[Begin al-Quds' Damascus correspondent recording] The popular Palestinian organizations held a mammoth sit-in at the Red Cross headquarters this morning in protest against the massacre on Friday, in which more than 15 people were martyred and more than 250 injured by the 'Arafatist police in the occupied homeland upon orders from 'Arafat and Rabin. The protesters called on the international and Arab communities to shoulder their responsibility by condemning the massacre, exposing its perpetrators, and taking measures to protect our people from the conspiracy that is being implemented by 'Arafat in a bid to ignite civil war in our homeland and liquidate the strugglers among the mujahid patriotic ranks.

The popular Palestinian organizations in Syria have sent memorandums to the Arab League representative in Damascus, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Damascus, and representatives of the Security Council permanent member states. Memos were also sent to the Arab Youth Union, the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the Arab Students Union. A cable was also sent to the Arab Women's Federation.

The APF has called for a eulogy ceremony for those who were martyred in the massacre perpetrated by 'Arafat at the hands of his police force, which is linked to the Zionist enemy. The ceremony will be held today at the Palestinian Youth Union headquarters in al-Yarmuk [camp] between 1700 and 2000 today, 21 November 1994. We will keep you informed of the activities that are being held in solidarity with our people in the occupied homeland and in protest against the massacre committed by the 'Arafatist police against our people in our occupied homeland. [end recording]

"Arafat-Zionist Crimes' Condemned

JN2111080894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1802 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A large march of anger began at al-Yarmuk [refugee] camp, to the south of Damascus at noon today. The march was called by the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces in memory of martyrs and to condemn the 'Arafat-Zionist crimes and massacres that are committed daily against our steadfast Palestinian Arab people. Palestinian flags and black flags were hoisted.

The march was led by Dr. Talal Naji, heading a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command; Brother Abu-Musa [Muhammad Sa'id Muragha], heading a delegation of the Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah [the Uprising]; Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leading a delegation of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, heading delegation of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; 'Arabi 'Awwad, leading a delegation of the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party; Mu'in Hamid, heading a delegation of the Organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation Struggle—al-Sa'iqah; Abu-Layla [Qays al-Samarra'i], heading a delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; a delegation of the command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; a delegation of the command of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas; and a delegation of the command of the Palestine Liberation Front.

Thousands of sons of our militant Palestinian people joined the march which proceeded from Schools Street and reached Martyr Hilwah Zaydan Center. The masses shouted slogans against 'Arafat and his clique and the treacherous Oslo Agreement, and burned Zionist flags and pictures of traitor 'Arafat.

Among the slogans shouted by the masses were the following: We sacrifice souls and blood for Palestine; O 'Arafat tell Rabin, the revolution's people will not be lenient; O 'Arafat what do you want from us, take your spies and go away from us; O 'Arafat the agent, O 'Arafat the butcher.

At the end of the march, brother Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, representative of Hamas in Syria, delivered a speech in the name of the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces in which he began by saluting the angry masses and condemned the terrorist 'Arafat-Zionist-U.S. massacre which sought to incite a Palestinian civil war.

He emphasized, on behalf of the alliance, that the revolution will continue in spite of massacres, and in spite of 'Arafat and his master Rabin.

He said: From al-Yarmuk camp—the camp of martyrs, from Syria—al-Asad's den, we say that we will not bow. He renewed the pledge to the martyrs 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam and Yusuf al-'Azmah and all martyrs of Palestine and the Arab and Islamic nations that jihad will continue—this is a jihad of either victory or martyrdom.

'Ashrawi Blames 'Arafat, Israel for Gaza Tragedy

BR2111152194 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 19 Nov 94 p 5

[Telephone interview with former PLO spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi by Guido Olimpio in Ramallah; date not given: "We Are One Step Away From Civil War"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "We have crossed the red line and unfortunately are sliding toward civil war." Hanan Ashrawi, former member of the delegation to the Madrid peace negotiations, a prominent figure in the Palestinians movement well known for her opposition to the established authorities, spoke with a voice broken with emotion. She was shaken by what happened in Gaza. [passage omitted]

[Olimpio] What is your opinion of the tragic events in Gaza?

['Ashrawi] There is little room for opinions. It is a dangerous development that was easy to forecast. It is necessary to investigate what happened and to punish the people responsible. Otherwise, the abyss of civil war will open up in front of us (an opinion shared by another prominent PLO figure, the hard-liner, Faruq Qaddumi—CORRIERE DELLA SERA editor's note).

[Olimpio] What can Yasir 'Arafat do?

['Ashrawi] Everyone expects a precise response from him. He must immediately open an inquiry and cast light on the massacre. Then he must grant greater strength to the institutions, hitherto nonexistent, and guarantee democratic development in the administered regions. It would be unthinkable to respond to public pressure with a recourse to violence: The Palestinian police must be trained better and must learn to respect human life.

[Olimpio] Why did this explosion occur?

['Ashrawi] The spark came from the attempt to hold a rally, but the real reasons lie elsewhere. Instead of creating confidence, the peace process has caused dissatisfaction. The population have lost their patience and have seen all their hopes disappear. It is not difficult to understand the anger of people living in Gaza.

[Olimpio] Could the Islamic movement gain ground?

['Ashrawi] The crisis is not confined to the fundamentalist movement. It involves all us Palestinians, so we must step up our efforts to halt the civil war.

[Olimpio] What is your opinion of the Israelis' stance?

['Ashrawi] They bear part of the blame for what is going on. With their conduct in the negotiations—a combination of delays and impositions—they ultimately eroded our authority. Instead of helping us, they humiliated us.

[Olimpio] The Palestinian leaders have frequently accused donor countries of not doing enough to help the new institutions in Gaza and Jericho. Do you consider these observations justified?

['Ashrawi] It is a mistake to base an autonomy regime on financial considerations. Of course funding is important, but what we need are real, solid government structures. If the West really wants to help us it must increase its efforts to secure real implementation of the peace agreements.

IDF Kill Arab in Netzarim; Strike Held in W. Bank

TA1911124894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Seventeen-year-old Yasir Mustafa was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire at the Netzarim junction. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the youth was taken in serious condition to Gaza's al-Ahali Hospital, where he died of his wounds.

Official military sources report that the Palestinian police evacuated the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who had taken over the junction. They had destroyed the IDF position and several electricity poles on the site and hoisted the PLO flag. The same sources note that the IDF soldiers had left the junction to enable the Palestinian policemen to evacuate it. A senior Southern Command officer said that at the end of the Sabbath the IDF will take measures to enable Netzarim settlers to move freely.

The Likud faction says that the order issued to IDF soldiers to retreat from the position in Netzarim in the face of an Arab mob is shameful. Tzomet and Moledet also denounced the IDF retreat from the Netzarim junction. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said this was total capitulation by the IDF in the face of Hamas.

Palestinian sources claim that two Arabs who were seriously wounded in the clashes with the Palestinian police yesterday died today at al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. The casualty toll in the bloody incidents in Gaza has thus risen to 15 dead.

Our correspondent reports that some 2,000 Hamas members headed by their leader, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, marched in a funeral procession in Gaza. The Palestinian police did not intervene.

One of yesterday's fatalities was buried at noon today in a large funeral in Gaza's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the crowd chanted slogans against 'Arafat calling him a foreign agent who lives in Tel Aviv.

A general strike was declared in most towns in Judaea and Samaria to protest the bloody events in Gaza, and schools were not opened. Riots occurred in Hebron during a procession staged by Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists. The IDF clamped a curfew on the center of the city.

In Tulkarm, nine people were wounded when a riot was dispersed, including two who sustained serious wounds. One of them is an Israeli Arab from al-Tira. A general strike was also declared in Jericho, although the Palestinian Authority [PA] has banned strikes.

The Fatah leadership in the West Bank is currently meeting in Ramallah to discuss the events in Gaza and the general strike in Judaea and Samaria. In Hebron, the directors of all local institutions convened in the municipality building to discuss the implications of the massacre of the Palestinian people in Gaza. A delegation from Hebron headed by Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah will leave for Gaza this afternoon to calm tempers. A delegation of Israeli Arabs headed by Ibrahim Nimr Husayn and Knesset Member 'Abd-al- Wahhab Darawshah is already in Gaza trying to mediate between the PA and Hamas.

'Heroic Operation' at Netzarim Junction Reported

JN2011095594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following: In a quick and heroic response to 'Arafat's massacre in our steadfast [Gaza] Strip on Friday [18 November], the heroes of armed struggle succeeded in killing a Zionist soldier last night.

Our correspondent says: Despite the intensive presence of 'Arafat's police near the Netzarim settlement, our heroes managed to fire at Zionist soldiers near the crossing leading to the Zionist settlement of Netzarim in the steadfast Strip, killing one Zionist soldier, as admitted by the Zionist military spokesman.

The heroic operation, for which Hamas [The Islamic Resistance Movement] claimed responsibility, was carried out at 2100 yesterday. Following the operation, 'Arafat's police staged a large-scale campaign in search of those who carried out the heroic operation. 'Arafatist police elements stormed the houses of our people in al-Maghazi, al-Burayj, and al-Nusayrat camps in the proud Strip.

Our correspondent adds: In the meantime, and in an atmosphere of severe tension, 'Arafat's police continued their deployment throughout the heroic Strip. Scores of roadblocks were set up on main and side streets, especially on the road from Bayt Hanun to the Zionist Erez checkpoint and the road from Gaza to the junction of the Zionist Netzarim settlement. The 'Arafatist police are diverting traffic to side streets in a desperate bid to protect the soldiers of the enemy at the mentioned crossroads from the brave attacks of our heroes. A similar deployment of 'Arafat's police was also observed around the 'Arafatist establishments and the houses of the 'Arafatist authority figures in our heroic Strip.

No Injuries Reported in West Bank Riots

TA2111114494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the territories, violent protests continued today over the events in the Gaza Strip. There were riots in the center of Tulkarm and Janin. There were no reports of injuries.

There were also general strikes in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah, but Qol Yisra'el's reporter on the scene says for the most part they were only partially observed.

A curfew was imposed on Hebron this morning after security forces received intelligence information that a wanted terrorist was in the area. Searches, however, turned up nothing.

Gaza Casualty Dies; Total Dead Rises to 16

TA2211054494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gaza, the number of fatalities in Friday's [18 November] clash between Palestinian police and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demonstrators has gone up to 16. 'Abd-al-Hanim of Daraj, a neighborhood of Gaza city, died of his wounds yesterday. Hospital directors in Gaza say that on Friday they admitted 131 wounded and that, of these, 23 are still hospitalized. A large number of the wounded were treated at private clinics.

Radio Says National Unity Requires Security

JN2111211794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers, new elements surface by the hour that cause anxiety and raise many questions. Once again this confuses the cards and reverses the course of the wind which some have wished would blow as they desire. It has been confirmed with various pieces of evidence, eyewitnesses testimonies, and medical reports that the events of tragic Friday [18 November] were not only premeditated acts but assassinations which led to clashes and a rapid deterioration of the situation, spread chaos and confusion, and resulted in acts of killings followed by acts of plundering and destruction.

Medical reports mention that most of those killed were shot at very close range that, at times, did not exceed one meter. This means there were assassinations in and outside the mosque, and that these assassinations were covered by the demonstration the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] intended to carry out following Friday prayers. This is confirmed by the fact that placards were already prepared and slogans written. The intention to encite was there.

What does this mean? This means that the incidents, the chaos, and the killings began from within the mosque and moved outside it. Eyewitnesses say fire was opened on the policemen and that stones were hurled at them. They were seen on television retreating in the face of all this.

Therefore, in light of these new elements, one cannot say that there were good intentions and that concern for people was a priority. From this premise, one can imagine that the murderous bullets were the ones that ignited the situation, followed by the bullets fired by some of the worshipers who carried their weapons inside the mosque. In this case, many questions are raised and the issue, which is a complex issue, becomes the beginning of a sedition that starts with bullets fired by infiltrators who know what they want. It has been confirmed through technical tests that they were the ones who fired dumdum bullets and which the Palestinian police does not use.

In any case, this is not the question to which the Jihad and Hamas movements should explicitly reply without evasion. The more important question is why some of their members carried weapons with them to the house of God. What is the purpose of this? Is it logical that people should enter mosques worried about their safety?

This question as to why there were weapons in the mosque remains the most important and most serious question. Without it, the crisis would not have developed, the events would not have taken place in rapid succession, and this catastrophe would not have taken place, in which nine from the Fatah movement were martyred and four were martyred from the Islamic Jihad and Hamas Movements.

The new facts that nine Fatah members were martyred turned the table upside down and revealed fresh elements the authorities should take into consideration when they tackle the issue.

First and foremost, what is needed now is to tackle the breaches the occupation has left us from 27 years of occupation. This task is not the task of only the Palestinian police and the Palestinian Authority but it is the task of all national forces and factions, irrespective of their size and role, to avoid the recurrence of what has taken place, and so the homeland will not suffer from evil and catastrophes like the one that took place on bloody Friday. What is first required is a sense of responsibility, alertness, and caution. Measures on the ground are needed that begin by checking the chaos, and disorder, and tribal fanaticism. Clear controls should be placed on all these. National unity comes after this. National unity has its conditions and its atmosphere. So long as the citizens do not enjoy safety and security and blackmail and oneupmanship are not ended, there can be no way to unity and no road will lead to the homeland.

Algeria

FIS Leader Says Dialogue Offer 'Sincere'

BR2111142994 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 19 Nov 94 pp 2-3

[Interview with Rabah Kebir, chairman of FIS Executive Committee abroad, by Fabio Scuto in Germany; date not given: "Algerian Fundamentalists Offer To Lay Down Weapons"—first paragraph is LA REPUBBLICA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cologne—[passage omitted] "Of course, it is very important to attend the Rome meetings, but my main concern is to make the Algerians and all the European countries realize that our desire to engage in dialogue is sincere and a final decision: We must find a negotiated solution to the crisis in Algeria," Shaykh Kebir said, sitting in the restaurant where he agreed to grant an interview. "But the Islamic leaders cannot make any decisions without convening the movement's 'general staff,'" Kebir said. "We must enjoy freedom of movement and the opportunity to convene the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] cadres and leaders in order to establish the utmost support for the idea of dialogue." Kebir gave to understand that the FIS has realized that while a military defeat of the regime is highly unlikely, a military victory by the extremist armed groups is impossible: Hence "the offer of a truce" if the FIS is again legalized in Algeria.

[Scuto] Shaykh Kebir, why is the dialogue with the regime failing in Algeria?

[Kebir] Because the repression remains fierce. Despite the continuing massacre of civilians, we responded positively to General Zeroual's invitation to engage in dialogue, because we are in favor of a negotiated solution to the crisis. But on the other side we have not only Zeroual but the military, the real eradicators of democracy who, via General Lamari (chief of defense staff—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note) swear to fight us to the last.

[Scuto] Is your decision to engage in dialogue final? Will you stop the terrorism?

[Kebir] Shaykh Ali Belhadi (joint chairman of the FIS, released from prison in September and placed under house arrest—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note) wrote an open letter to all armed groups to say that a negotiated solution is the only possible kind. We must legitimize the quest for negotiations among the people who are fighting, otherwise we will never reach a solution. So there must be the maximum support within the Islamic movement for the decision to negotiate. Last month we responded to the regime's offers by setting certain conditions—the release of all FIS officials, freedom of movement, and the opportunity to convene officials and cadres of the Front to formulate a policy. This is the only way to reach an agreement that can last.

[Scuto] Why has the FIS not proclaimed a truce and halted its terrorist actions in the meantime?

[Kebir] If there is a meeting of Front cadres at which it is possible to discuss the form and terms of negotiations with the government and to start a real dialogue, a truce will be announced.

[Scuto] But within the Islamic movement there are groups such as the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] which are entirely opposed to negotiations...

[Kebir] That is true. Within the Islamic movement there are groups that call for a holy war. It is the repression that creates extremism. We must convince them that dialogue can lead to a just solution. It will not be easy, but it is not impossible.

[Scuto] What do you think of the killing of foreigners in Algeria? What connection do sailors, nuns, priests, engineers, and specialists—killed merely because they are Westerns—have with your struggle?

[Kebir] I am shocked by these murders of innocent foreigners who bear no responsibility for what is happening in my country. These actions are condemned by our religion, which is why I am skeptical about the claims of responsibility made for them. Be that as it may, I repeat: They are criminal actions and unacceptable.

[Scuto] Will the contracts that other countries have reached with this regime, which you define as illegitimate, be honored?

[Kebir] We are well aware that we live in a world that has become a small village, so I say we are willing to cooperate with everyone, and especially with Europe. There are major common interests that we must develop more. If some day the FIS leads Algeria, God willing, it will honor every pledge, every contract, within observance of international legality.

[Scuto] As you know, Italy is the foremost purchaser of Algerian gas...

[Kebir] Italy is an important partner for my country, and we want things to stay that way. Some argue that the FIS could exercise some kind of energy ransom, but I can assure you of the contrary: The gas pipeline with Italy is safe; nobody is dreaming of touching it.

Dismisses Zeroual 'Initiative'

MM2211100294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 4

[Interview with Rabah Kebir, chairman of FIS Executive Committee abroad, by Kamil al-Tawil in Germany; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [al-Tawil] President Zeroual made an initiative toward you to facilitate the dialogue. What did you offer in return to disclaim responsibility for the negotiations' failure?

[Kebir] That is not true. Zeroual did not release a large number of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders. He released a meager number of them, namely five people, putting Cheikh Abbasi Madani under house arrest—which is imprisonment in one way or another. It is wrong to say that the FIS leadership comprises only the seven figures present in Blida prison, or that Zeroual has released most of them. Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the provisional executive bureau, still has not been released, nor has he stood trial. He has been in prison for three years, confined in a room, and he is not allowed to leave it or even go to the prison's courtyard. [passage omitted]

This proves that Zeroual released a very small number of FIS leaders. I would like to stress here that the FIS' acceptance of the idea of searching for a solution was not a maneuver. It was serious in the search for a negotiated solution that extricates the country from its crisis. If Zeroual believes the FIS is like the other parties, he should allow it to operate like the other parties, which consult their leaders and grass roots before making important decisions. The FIS has not been allowed to experience this consultation. It was dissolved, then held responsible for the dialogue's failure and the country's crisis. As the FIS is dissolved, it is not responsible. If it is responsible, it should not be dissolved. Zeroual could not overcome this minor matter as a result of the great pressures exerted by the eradicationists, first and foremost General (Mohamed) Lamari. These people want to eradicate the Islamists and kill them all—which is not possible, because it means killing all the Algerian people.

I am not saying that Zeroual was not serious in his endeavor to resolve the crisis through dialogue, because that comes within the context of judging the intentions. Although Zeroual accused the cheikhs on the basis of his judgment of their intentions—an action which should not have emanated from a president or a man occupying the highest position in the state. But the certain thing is that the eradicationists surrounding Zeroual do not want reconciliation, for a simple reason: loss of their interests. They achieved their interests as a result of the crisis, and their interests disappear if the crisis disappears. And that is what is prompting them to pursue the policy of resolving the crisis through military means right to the end, whatever the sacrifices.

[Al-Tawil] But what concessions have you offered Zeroual in return?

[Kebir] It is not true that we have not offered concessions for the sake of dialogue. Last year we set conditions for negotiation when we demanded that those who caused the (1992) coup be punished and referred to court. We have transcended that matter now. We are serious in searching for a solution at the negotiations. This is why we are setting no conditions to obstruct it. We just demanded the minimum. We demanded to be allowed to consult with our grass roots and leaders before taking any important decision. If the FIS is not rehabilitated, how could it be held responsible? If what is required is to search for a solution that holds, the FIS should be allowed to consult with its military and political grass roots inside and outside the country. How can the FIS be asked to persuade its grass roots to accept a lawful solution to the crisis if it is not allowed to consult with these grass roots? [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] But Islamists are killing the authority's elements.

[Kebir] Yes, the war is continuing. It is not reasonable to tell one party to the conflict: Halt your war and I will let the other party kill you. A truce agreement should be between the two parties and by the two parties. That happens after each party is allowed to consult its grass roots and leadership. [passage omitted]

[Hijazi] Statements issued by the Armed Islamic Group and the Islamic Salvation Army carry threats to the West and Westerners. And there are groups killing Westerners because they are Westerners "desecrating Algerian territory." Would you accept it if groups—in Germany, for example—were to kill Algerians because the Algerian Government was supporting certain German groups?

[Kebir] The FIS' position on that point is clear. We are against and condemn attacks on foreigners. And it is untrue that the Islamic Salvation Army called for killing foreigners. The Salvation Army condemned their murder. We do not attack foreigners because they are foreigners. When foreigners come to Algeria within the framework of hospitality and in a peaceful manner, they are the object of respect.

[Al-Tawil] What is your position on Westerners working in the oil sector? Do they have to leave Algeria?

[Kebir] The question of their departing or staying concerns them alone. It is they who decide whether they have to visit this or that region on the basis of their interests. Morally, it can be said that any person in the world who accepts the principles of freedom and democracy cannot be selfish: wanting these principles for himself and denying them to others, or supporting in one way or another a dictatorial regime.

[Al-Tawil] You always say that you will not forget states' positions on the jihad in Algeria. But do you not believe that the states which have maintained their relations with your country are acting normally, as they have always urged that the road of dialogue and reconciliation be followed?

[Kebir] We are not asking states to sever political relations with Algeria. We said that states which respect democracy should exert pressure for the sake of looking for a solution consistent with their line so that there will be no political hypocrisy.

[Al-Tawil] But we hear all states, first and foremost the United States, urging that the dialogue road be followed.

[Kebir] We considered that position an encouraging development in U.S. policy. It is a development in the right direction, not only from the United States, but from Italy and Spain as well.

[Al-Tawil] What about France?

[Kebir] I do not want to talk about France. The reports we hear through the media say something contrary to that. Several French newspapers have cited the sale of French arms to help to oppress Algeria. We believe that this position does not help the dialogue.

[Al-Tawil] But we hear official statements stressing dialogue and reconciliation.

[Kebir] French officials have to reply to what is published by their press. Not a single categorical denial of what the press reported (about arms deals) has been issued by officials. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] The FIS' insistence in 1991 on holding early presidential elections was one of the causes of the crisis the country is experiencing. So what prevents you from participating in the elections Zeroual has called for?

[Kebir] Zeroual's announcement of presidential elections does not represent an initiative for a solution, but, rather, a policy of keeping one jump ahead, a policy of loving to stay in power, which the generals pursue. Who is going to vote? Who is going to go to the ballot boxes? How can the election lists be organized? Where is political life? Where is the press? Five newspapers have been closed since Zeroual's speech on the eve of [the anniversary of] the 1 November revolution. So it is an atmosphere of deception, not an initiative for a solution. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] Some quarters expressed fear that your assuming power would turn Algeria into another Iran. Can a communist say he is a communist?

[Kebir] That is said by those seeking to harm the Islamists in Algeria. The FIS contested the elections on the basis of a political plan. It has repeatedly declared its respect for political and parliamentary life and freedoms, and it accepted the principle of the rotation of power. It certainly was not the FIS that canceled the elections and rejected the rotation of power.

[Al-Tawil] So Algeria will not become another Iran.

[Kebir] Algeria is not Iran, which we respect. We said that the Iranian, Sudanese, or other model is not the model proposed for us. Our model is Algerian and is based on our ulema's understanding of God's Book [Koran], his prophet's Sunnah [sayings and doings], and caliphs' applications.

[Al-Tawil] What would you say to the Algerians who are planning to leave their country in the event of your assuming power?

[Kebir] We want to rule Algeria by Islam and by the Algerian people. We do not want to rule Algeria by Islam and without the citizens. We tell every Algerian who cares about his homeland and his religion that his country needs him, and that an Islamic regime in Algeria will not harm him. On the contrary, it will benefit him.

[Al-Tawil] Do you say that to the generals as well?

[Kebir] That is premature.

[Al-Tawil] What is your opinion of the call for establishing a caliphate state in Algeria?

[Kebir] That too is premature. What the Algerians should discuss now is how their country can be ruled by Islam. A caliphate state means that it includes all Islamic world states—which requires great efforts. [passage omitted]

FIS Leader Hadam Views Relations With Regime

NC2211104894 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Nov 94 pp 1, 11

[Report by Amal Mudallali in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anwar Hadam, head of the parliamentary delegation abroad of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has declared that establishing an Islamic state in Algeria is "only a matter of time." He added: If this is not achieved through a political solution to the crisis, it will be achieved by "jihad," which he said the existing regime has "forced on us."

In an interview with AL-NAHAR here in Washington, where he resides, Hadam noted that this regime is the "crisis" because it is "illegitimate." He accused the regime of blocking all peaceful endeavors by denying the people their rights and stepping up the campaigns of those whom he called the "exterminators" to liquidate the people and institutions and murder a thousand civilians since the beginning of November. However, Hadam stressed the FIS' commitment to search for a peaceful solution, despite his suspicions of the authorities' intentions. He summed up his group's conditions for holding a dialogue in one demand: the right for its leaders abroad and at home to meet to develop a unified formula for a solution, because such a meeting would mean a recognition and rehabilitation of the FIS by authorities.

Hadam addressed three questions to President Liamine Zeroual, the answers to which would prove that he is really not related to the "coupists," as he claims. He doubted the credibility of any potential elections to be held so long as party pluralism in Algeria is prohibited.

Asked the reasons for the failure of the dialogue, Hadam said: "We have been suspicious of the regime's intentions in entering a serious dialogue from the start. It would take a long time to talk about the reasons for the failure. We have received a letter written by [FIS Deputy Leader] Ali Belhadj in which he tried to explain the situation. He concluded by saying: We are still loyal to our pledge. The core of the message signed by the brothers in prison before their release on 6 September is that we are still prepared for and have not shut the doors to negotiations so long as they are serious. The regime must allow the FIS leaders both at home and abroad to meet so that they can study the proposals at hand and then enter serious negotiations. The regime must do the same thing.

We know that the exterminators have stepped up their action against the Algerian people. We are surprised that one of the heads of these coupists and the one most hated by Algerians, General Mohamed al-'Imari [name as transliterated], has been promoted to marshal. We would have expected the promotion to follow heroic acts in defense against an external attack, but he was promoted for perfecting the murder of hundreds. Since 1 November, more than a thousand persons have been killed. Many were released from prison and then slaughtered."

Hadam pointed out that during the incidents in Mostaganem, western Algeria, "They killed children and raped women and accused the Armed Islamic Groups of committing these acts, but the mujahidin are innocent and we are against whoever targets innocent people." He added: "We see escalation by the exterminators on the one hand and on the other we hear Zeroual saying that he is ready for negotiations. We demand our right to meet to come up with a unified formula to propose a resolution to the crisis. The regime must define its policy regarding the negotiations." Hadam cited the FIS' latest statement, which stressed that "out of interest in the welfare of the people and the country, we will not shut the doors to serious negotiations. The mujahid, who do not fear death for the sake of God and what is right, cannot be afraid of sitting at the negotiating table to present a rightful argument to uphold the rights of the people. Jihad for us is a means and not an end. Should there be signs of sincere intentions, the appropriate conditions for a peaceful solution that could restore dignity to the Algerian people and the command of their country, and there is no bargaining about the people's Islam, then that would be the ultimate objective, with reliance on God."

Hadam defined FIS conditions for a dialogue with the government as follows: "The right to hold a meeting within the framework of the FIS, which would mean the regime is ready to recognize the FIS as a political party, rehabilitate it, and return its property. Meeting our demand that we officially sit with our mujahid brothers would mean the regime is recognizing the people's right to defend their rights and acknowledging that what is taking place in Algeria is not terrorism but a legitimate jihad against usurpers."

Asked to give the FIS opinion of President Zeroual's call for holding presidential elections, Hadam first noted that it is "an attempt to win foreign sympathy." He then added: "The Army has no power other than that delegated to it by the people within the framework of the Constitution; namely, to protect the people and to defend the homeland, unity, and sovereignty. Neither Gen. Zeroual nor anyone else has the right to discuss these matters, and the Army must return to its barracks. Our concept of a modern state and of an Islamic state is that the Army should be under the control of the political authority, not the other way round." He added: "We believe that a regime that was not elected has no legitimacy or right to exist. Such presidential elections, therefore, are illegitimate, especially under the current circumstances in Algeria, where political pluralism and the people's right to free choice are absent. There can be no party pluralism without the FIS."

On the idea of nominating Zeroual for the elections he promised to hold before the end of 1995, Hadam said: "Zeroual claims he has nothing to do with the coup and that he accepted the post to get the country out of trouble. But, we would like to ask him these questions, which were also posed by our brothers in the Provisional National Executive Bureau and in the Armed Islamic Group:

1. What measures has he taken against those who planned the coup against legitimacy and the people and led the country into pools of blood and tears?

2. What measures has he taken to end the injustice those people imposed on the citizens and on the owners of legitimate rights?

3. Who is responsible for killing civilians with bullets of revenge and with various forms of brutal torture, especially since Zeroual came to power?

With the absence of these basic conditions, we wonder why Zeroual agreed to assume power and follow a policy he did not draft. If he were really innocent, he would not run the country with a policy he did not draft. So, how credible is he in the issue of presidential elections?"

Hadam cited Shaykh Belhadj, who congratulated Zeroual in advance "on his victory in the elections because he will be alone, as has been the case in the country for 20 years." He said: "In the absence of pluralism and elected parties, notably the FIS, there will be no elections in the full sense of the word because all elected parties have been rejected."

Asked whether recent reports are true that Zeroual will remain in power under pressure from the Army, Hadam replied: "I do not know the sources; ask the man directly. We said that he either keeps his promise—that he came to get the county out of the crisis—and we are ready for it, or resign. Thus, those who were behind the coup will become known to the public."

Asked about the situation of Shaykh 'Abbas Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj, Hadam said: "Since they were released from the Blida prison, they virtually moved to another prison. Zeroual said that he put them in a place where they can perform their tasks, but this has not happened. In the name of a parliamentary committee, we submitted an official request asking for the necessary guarantees to enter the country to meet with the two shaykhs. The foreign minister replied that we would receive an official response. We have received nothing for over a month. That is why we are questioning the regime's intentions. While the regime turned the release of the two leaders into a house arrest, Gen. al-'Imari issued instructions to escalate the situation. As a matter of fact, we consider this a maneuver but, nevertheless, we are ready because it would be in the interest of the country and the people."

When asked about the government's claim that Ali Belhadj called for escalating the acts of violence from his new place of residence, Haddam referred to the statement the FIS released on this matter. He noted that in his statement Belhadj said that he is committed to the 6 September letter. "What Belhadj wrote is a personal opinion and he has a right to do so, which is why we called for a meeting of all leaders."

Asked his personal opinion of what Belhadj was cited as saying and whether this suggests extending an olive branch, Hadam said: "This depends on what you heard about what was written. We consider what is happening in Algeria as jihad and not terrorism. The current jihad was caused by the regime. We all support and back the jihad in Algeria. If there is violence involved, it is being caused by the regime. We support what we believe to be our moral responsibility to side with our people to defend their rights."

Asked if this means that elections are being rejected under the current circumstances, Hadam said: "We consider the existing regime unconstitutional and anything that comes from it unconstitutional. There must be a resort to constitutional legitimacy before holding elections, either by sitting at the negotiating table, which we prefer, until those behind the coup are banished, or the regime will be forced to seek elections through the ongoing jihad [as published]. If anyone wants to understand our position, he has to examine the Algerian crisis. It emerged as a result of a clash between the people's will to regain their state and that of the ruling clique, which has ruled for 30 years and has constantly rejected the people's choice. The regime is the crisis. We are prepared and are acting within the framework of the FIS as a political party to find a political solution to overthrow the existing regime and consequently emerge from the crisis."

Asked if there could be no solution as long as the current regime is in power, Hadam said: "What is the regime? Does it mean the coupists? If Zeroual is innocent and has nothing to do with the coupists, we are ready to side with him. That is why we are asking him to distance himself from them or else our brother mujahidin will be ready to topple the regime militarily. The mujahidin declared their unity on 13 May 1994 and chose for themselves the framework of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA], which is the genuine and original group and not the one whose communiques are released by certain intelligence and security departments. The unification of this group was a shock to the regime, which wagered on fragmenting the mujahidin. We have gone beyond the stage of fear."

When asked fear of what, Hadam said: "Fear of failure of the political and jihad efforts to extricate the country from its current predicament. We are confident that we are capable of scoring a military victory, but we prefer to achieve this goal politically because we are aware of the nature of the existing regime and those who back it." Referring to the French, he said: "We passed through a very bitter stage when the French colonialists felt that the hour of independence had struck and they embarked on a policy of scorched earth. The coupists are currently trying to pursue the same policy, having realized that they have no future in Algeria. They have begun to pursue a scorched earth policy to exterminate the people. In 10 days more than a thousand civilians were killed and schools and other establishments were burned down. We hold the regime responsible for these actions and for the killing of women and children. They are destroying the frameworks on which we pinned hope to build Algeria." Hadam said that he will not agree to "the coupists' stay in power" and wondered: "Why is such a solution acceptable in Haiti but unacceptable in Algeria?"

Asked about the French statement that the Islamic fundamentalists who were arrested might have targeted Israeli interests, Hadam said: "We are a political party and our brother mujahidin believe that their jihad takes place inside Algeria and we have nothing to do outside our country, whether it is Morocco, France, or anywhere else. What is happening in France is a local crisis. They are launching a campaign against the wearing of the veil and against anyone one who even tries to introduce certain English vocabulary into the French language. They reject the existence of Islam in France and want France for the French alone. Their onslaught against foreigners is more evident vis-a-vis the Islamic fundamentalists. There is no Islamic state to protect the fundamentalists in the world."

Hadam recalled the American model and called for using it as an example because it accommodates many cultures. He said: "The French justify their support for the existing regime in Algeria on the grounds of fear that tens of thousands will emigrate from Algeria to France. We say that when an Islamic state is established, we fear that they will expel our brother Islamists from France." Hadam concluded by saying that the establishment of an Islamic state in Algeria is "only a matter of time. We had hoped that this goal would be achieved peacefully so that we could build our state gradually and peacefully but they imposed on us the current jihad. They are destroying our establishments. We hold the coupists and the Western countries that support them, especially France, responsible for this situation. France has failed to get rid of its colonialist obsession."

Security Services on Operations Against 'Terrorists'

LD2111200994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A security services' statement indicated that, on the basis of information on the presence of a terrorist group in a hideout in the garden of a house, the security forces succeeded in eliminating four terrorists in Douar Ouled Allel in Sidi Moussa, Blida Province. Among them was the leader of the group that was active in the region. During the same operation, the security forces succeeded in arresting eight terrorists from the same group, and recovering an Uzi machine gun, automatic pistols, a hunting rifle, a photocopying machine, and a quantity of ammunition.

Another statement by the security services indicated the security services have eliminated 11 terrorists between 17-18 November in the provinces of Batna, Tizi Ouzou, Chlef, Algiers, and Jijil.

During these operations, the security forces succeeded in recovering a quantity of arms and communication sets.

However, a security services' statement said the hands of terrorism have reached a 7-year old boy in the city of Tazoult in Batna. After breaking into the home of a family in Tazoult, the two terrorists who carried out the operation slit the throat of the child, Mohamed, the son of a citizen resident in the area.

Security Forces Eliminate 15 'Terrorists'

LD2111182494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Security services said in a statement that their forces have eliminated 15 terrorists between 17-20 November in a number of the homeland's provinces.

Armed Group Attacks Village; 11 Killed

LD2111213494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sidi Abdallah village is situated in the southeast of the capital. Last Wednesday night [16 November], the village lived a nightmare of terror. An armed group disturbed the tranquillity of the village, perpetrating terrible crimes against its defenseless inhabitants. The village's inhabitants withstood for hours in face of an armed group. We follow up what happened with this report. [passage omitted]

On Wednesday night, at 1830 hours exactly, the calmness of this village was disturbed by the barbarity of a crime. Armed persons attacked the village and forced the inhabitants out of their houses to this square to perpetrate the ugliest crimes. They burned and killed the defenseless citizens, looking for a policeman who was a hero Wednesday night, according to the eyewitnesses. [passage omitted]

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Fatih the policeman, Fatih the target, Fatih the hero resisted with unsurpassed courage the bullets of the perfidious for a full seven hours. After the armed group raided and burned the house, the hero died after using all his ammunition and killing nine armed persons. He died with his mother, leaving behind two children. [passage omitted]

Those people lived the tragedy, young and old, and saw the young man Bouthiaf burned in front of them because he refused to tell the armed group where the policeman Fatih was. The last Wednesday was a nightmare for the people of Sidi Aballah, who lost a number of their neighbors—11 killed and five wounded. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Calls For Increased Support to 'Arafat

BR2111134494 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 20 Nov 94 p 7

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Franco Venturini in Cairo; date not given: "Egypt's President Mubarak: Let Us Avert the Birth of Another Afghanistan"—first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Husni Mubarak smiled as he offered me an early-morning Montecristo, amid the gold and stucco work of the presidential palace of Ittihadiya. "What can I do?" he explained in a tone of mock regret: "I smoke very little, but someone must have photographed me with a cigar in my mouth, and since then I have received constant gifts of boxes of cigars."

This—the small gifts that he receives—is just one sign of his power. And Husni Mubarak has a great deal of power: He has been president of Egypt for 13 years, since Anwar al-Sadat was shot dead by a fundamentalist commando unit, and his current term will end at the end of the century. He was therefore able to recollect in a detached manner and to take a long view, before his visit to Rome starting Tuesday.

[Venturini] Mr. President, the massacre in Gaza confirms that Yasir 'Arafat is caught between two lines of fire: He has to deal with the Hamas and Jihad fundamentalists, while negotiating with Israel to improve the autonomy. Do you think he will succeed?

[Mubarak] With regard to 'Arafat, we must first praise the courage that he displayed by signing the agreement with Israel. But those who support him verbally must move on to deeds. The donor countries that promised the Palestinians $2.2 billion in aid are lagging behind very seriously, as though they did not realize that in that part of the world there are no infrastructures, no aqueducts, no drains, no schools, and no hospitals. How is it possible to create consensus if all the benefits of peace are lacking? So the point is that not only 'Arafat but anyone else in his place too would fail if he did not receive the necessary support. And if that happened, I can assure you that the entire peace process would fail, thus creating an extremely dangerous situation for everyone, including Israel. This is why it is necessary to act quickly, to grant 'Arafat real support before we all find ourselves with a bomb in our hands. The Israelis must remember how difficult they found it to tame the intifadah when they controlled the entire territory, so they must not demand that 'Arafat do the impossible. Realism is needed, and the most realistic thing that can be done is to support 'Arafat.

[Venturini] What is the alternative—perhaps another war?

[Mubarak] I would not say a war, but much violence, yes, and the violence could be more dangerous than war. A failure of the attempt to resolve the Palestinian question would attract all the malcontents, fanatics, and extremists to the area. Gaza and the surrounding area would become another Afghanistan, and then everyone would want 'Arafat back.

[Venturini] Nobody is so involved in dialogue with all the sides in the difficult Middle Eastern peace process as you are. What signs are you receiving from Damascus? Will Syria follow Jordan's example? Will it reach an agreement with Israel?

[Mubarak] The Syrians want to reach an agreement as much as the others, but with Israel there has been the serious obstacle of mutual mistrust, and it still survives. Now I see new opportunities on the horizon; I think there will be meetings in Washington. And even Clinton's visit to Damascus—though it was not fully successful—did give the impression that progress is possible in the negotiations. Syria is well aware that it would be in its interest to conclude a peace treaty, but more flexibility is needed from Israel too. I can tell you for certain that there will be no agreement without the full return of Golan, and I have told the Israelis this several times. The agreement with Jordan is a special case, justified by the special relations. But it must not be believed that the Syrians will accept territorial compromise formulas, just as we Egyptians did not accept them.

[Venturini] Mr. President, some dangers are present not only in Gaza. How serious is the fundamentalist threat in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Look, the Egyptians are moderates by nature; they are not inclined to violence. The episodes of terrorism that have occurred must be set in relation to the return to Egypt of the individuals in Afghanistan who have been trained and financed by foreign countries. But I can tell you that the fundamentalist cells have now been brought under control. Only isolated, sporadic episodes of violence can still take place in Egypt.

[Venturini] You mentioned foreign funding—from whom?

[Mubarak] It is not always easy to identify the sources. We are working on this, but money now moves very fast, and sometimes through hidden channels. It could be Iran: Sudan is not wealthy enough, but it could provide training camps and could be a transit country. Iraq and Yemen could be involved.

[Venturini] But apart from foreign funding, are there not domestic causes that nurture fundamentalism, such as economic distress, the level of democratization, the search for a more marked religious identity?

[Mubarak] All religions have their extremists: Consider the Christians, the Jews. You mentioned economic conditions. Of course there is poverty in our country, as in many others, including the United States. But we are working to improve matters, and we are succeeding: What would be the point of obstructing this process with violence? In any case, many of these fundamentalists are well off; they are specialists, professional people. Then there is democracy. Well, let me tell you that the kind of democracy that the Europeans have in mind for Africa is unrealistic.

There are too many differences in living standards, educational standards, the production capacity of industry and agriculture: Too many of the things that you have do not exist in the Third World. This is why a simple transfer of your democratic system would not work.

[Venturini] Do you think that Islamic fundamentalism could become a threat in Europe too?

[Mubarak] I think it has already become one. I have often warned the European governments that grant asylum to fundamentalist activists. I have told them to beware, because by so doing, sooner or later they will have to pay a high price. I have in mind France, Denmark, Britain, and Italy too. A great deal of steadfastness is needed, because the fundamentalist weed grows fast.

[Venturini] But is the main threat not from Algeria?

[Mubarak] Look, in Algeria too fundamentalism is supported from abroad, and there too returnees from Afghanistan have played a crucial role. Algeria's specific problem is that internal conflicts have delayed economic reform. This must now be the priority, and the Algerian authorities must be helped in this direction. I want to be very clear: To engage in dialogue with radical fundamentalists is a waste of time. We tried this in Egypt, and they responded with machine guns and bombs. When you reach that point, all that is left is steadfastness. Europe must realize this, instead of concerning itself with contagion in North Africa, because if there is any contagion it will affect the Europeans. Democracy does not mean disorder, it does not mean allowing fundamentalist action groups to grow stronger every day, as happens in Europe. Let us remember Iran, where many westerners allowed the Shah to fall, in the belief that Khomeyni would be their friend.

[Venturini] Iraq has recognized the borders of Kuwait. Do you think that the UN sanctions should be lifted now?

[Mubarak] Baghdad has taken an encouraging step, but before a lifting of sanctions all the UN resolutions must be fully implemented. The point, however, is this: Is Saddam Husayn sincere when he says that he recognizes Kuwait's borders, or is it a tactical move designed precisely to secure a lifting of sanctions? I remember well all the good advice that was given to Saddam Husayn at the start of the August 1990 crisis. I tried every means of finding him a way out: I suggested to him that we hold an Arab summit; I explained to him that the rest of the world would not stand by and watch; and then, at George Bush's request, I tried again and organized an Algerian mediation attempt, because Algeria's stance was neutral then. It was all in vain: Saddam Husayn remained isolated. And now, a few weeks ago, he made another mistake. He thought he could put pressure on the Security Council by moving his troops, but instead he obtained the opposite effect. This is why I say that it is necessary to be very careful with Saddam.

[Venturini] So was Bush wrong not to take the war as far as Baghdad, not to destroy Saddam Husayn's power by force of arms?

[Mubarak] Look, I was opposed to an advance as far as Baghdad at the end of the war. And I told Bush so very clearly.

[Venturini] Pardon me, Mr. President, but this has never been discussed before. Egypt was present in the field with a large contingent—numerically the second largest. Was it perhaps you who halted Schwarzkopf's troops?

[Mubarak] I told Bush at the time that it would be a serious mistake to invade the whole of Iraq, to capture or kill its leader. I told him that if he followed the advice of General Schwarzkopf, who wanted to advance, I would openly oppose it, on Egypt's behalf. I told him that I would condemn America's decision both within the United Nations and elsewhere. At that point Bush heeded me, displaying his wisdom. Iraq is not Panama. It must be realized that the Arab world is different, that it has to deal with nationalism. And that in the Arab world you cannot bring down a leader with a foreign invasion army, unless you want to spark serious consequences. That would have been a tragic mistake, which would have disrupted the balances and ruined the victory. Now the situation has not changed: Saddam can only be brought down internally.

[Venturini] Mr. President, another Arab leader with whom the West has difficult relations is Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Egypt has had very difficult relations with Libya in the past. What is your opinion now, and what line do you think the Europeans should follow?

[Mubarak] We now have good relations with al-Qadhdhafi, but what is more important id that al-Qadhdhafi is no longer the same as before. Libya did not side against the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, though it forms a negative assessment of it. Libya has stopped funding extremist groups around the world, starting with Abu Nidal. Libya refused to host Carlos, and when he came to seek refuge they sent him back on the same aircraft, a couple of years ago. Al- Qadhdhafi is a moderate now. This must be acknowledged; we cannot continue to isolate him over the Lockerbie affair, about which I have heard so many different accounts. Reagan bombarded Libya: Did that resolve anything? We, however, maintain good relations, we encourage moderation, and in fact we are working for everyone. We are not violating the UN resolutions on the embargo. It is rather the European countries and the United States that are violating them: The private sector never stops.

[Venturini] Will you discuss this with Berlusconi, too?

[Mubarak] Of course, and I will also talk about our excellent relations, the common interests that Egypt and Italy have more and more.

Mubarak Visits Britain, Holds Talks With Major

Discusses 'Arafat's 'Downfall'

NC2111153794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has again warned against the lack of support for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat by the West European and donor countries. Mubarak, currently visiting London, criticized the scale of the aid that has reached the Palestinian Authority [PA]. This aid, he said, has not enabled the PA to make any progress worth mentioning.

In an interview with Britain's Sky News television network, President Mubarak warned that 'Arafat's downfall will lead to the downfall of the peace process in the Middle East. This in turn will trigger more acts of violence in Europe. He warned against the danger that will face Europe if the West does not support 'Arafat financially. He said desperate Palestinians might resort to terrorism and undermine the peace process.

Mubarak said he had previously warned of events and expected what happened in Gaza on Friday [18 November]. He noted that these events are just the "beginning" if the donor countries do not support and advance the peace process. He said: If this does not happen and the peace process is not supported, I believe there will be another Afghanistan. He explained that 'Arafat is still resisting but must be supported.

He said 'Arafat will use the donor countries' aid to finance projects. If these countries do not give this aid, 'Arafat's popularity and reputation will suffer. If 'Arafat goes, it will be a "disaster."

President Mubarak said he conversed with 'Arafat two days ago. 'Arafat informed him that he is suffering a shortage of funds and that the aid he has received amounts to only $48 million. President Mubarak asked: What can $48 million do in an area in which there is nothing—no employment, no infrastructure, no health care, and no education? What will 'Arafat tell the Palestinian people?

Comments on Talks With Major

NC2111170394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that cooperation between Egypt and Britain will continue and that there are truly vast trade relations between the two countries. He said that Britain is Egypt's second largest trade partner. In a statement following his talks with British Prime Minister John Major today, President Mubarak said that there are numerous joint projects between Egypt and Britain in the field of oil and several other areas.

In response to a question on Egypt's stance on the latest developments in Gaza and on the Hamas movement, President Mubarak said: "I have repeatedly said that the donor nations must focus their efforts on assisting the Palestinians to stand on their feet and build their infrastructure because there are no investments, infrastructure, jobs, medical care, or education [in the occupied territory]."

President Mubarak warned that the problem will get worse and more serious not only for the neighboring countries but also for many other countries in the world.

Responding to a question on how Britain can help the Palestinians, President Mubarak said that Britain is one of the donor nations and that British officials well understand the situation there.

Replying to a question on bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Britain, President Mubarak said: "There is cooperation between the two countries and Britain is the second largest country regarding the volume of trade with Egypt. There are also joint projects and investment in the fields of oil, natural gas, and several other areas."

Asked if he sensed that the British officials showed a positive response to the transformations in the Palestinian self-rule areas, President Mubarak said: I sense that the British officials have shown considerable understanding of the situation in the self-rule area. I have said in several statements before that if the donor nations do not help the self-rule areas as agreed, the problem will become more complicated and what I expected has indeed happened. He said: If we do not quickly help self-rule, things will become more complicated in an already volatile area that does not need more tension."

Meets Queen, Labor Leader

NC2111193294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] British Queen Elizabeth II this evening received President and Mrs. Husni Mubarak at Buckingham Palace. She welcomed the president and wished him a nice stay in Britain. The meeting followed President Mubarak's meeting with British Prime Minister John Major.

Later this evening, President Mubarak met at his residence in the Claridge Hotel in London with British opposition leader Tony Blair. Following the meeting, Blair said that he fully appreciates the important role that President Mubarak is playing to promote the peace process in the Middle East. He added that he supports him in his endeavors to urge the donor states to provide financial aid to the Palestinian self-rule Authority. Blair added that the Labor Party, which he chairs, places the importance of stabilizing conditions in the region and steering them toward comprehensive development at the forefront of its priorities. Blair stressed that his party's position is not different from that of the British Government in this regard.

Regarding the Lockerbie issue, Blair said that he shares the British Government's position in this regard.

Mubarak on PA, 'Terrorism,' Iraq

NC2111211694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has again warned of any delay in providing international aid to the nascent Palestinian Authority [PA]. He attributed the incidents that occurred in Gaza on Friday [18 November] to donor nations' delay in providing aid to the PA to enable it to rebuild the infrastructure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that the Palestinians may feel the fruits of peace.

In an interview with the BBC today, President Mubarak noted that he has highlighted this issue since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Washington and of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo. He said that the Palestinian people are looking forward to the results of peace. He said that approximately $500 million were scheduled to reach the PA this year to build the infrastructure, but it received only $48 million to pay the salaries of the Palestinian police. He pointed out that with the increase of suffering, absence of reconstruction, unemployment, deterioration of education, health care, and utilities, violence will mount further. I have often warned of this, he said, adding that extremists will gather there from all parts of the Arab world and Europe. He urged the donor countries to provide aid so that the Palestinians may feel that there is hope and rewards from peace. He noted that billions of dollars have been spent on the Palestinian issue since the peace talks began, whereas what is required for the infrastructure is a comparatively small sum. He cautioned that there is a need to contain the expected danger before it is aggravated in Gaza, Jericho, and the West

Bank, noting that the repercussions will spill over to Europe, generating hatred among the Palestinian people for both the Europeans and Arabs.

In response to a question on the Egyptian Government's efforts to confront terrorism, President Mubarak said that what is happening in Egypt is not Islamic terrorism because it has absolutely nothing to do with religion. He noted that terrorism began after the return of certain individuals from Afghanistan in 1991 and the acts of violence followed. He stressed that the security forces are firm in dealing with these terrorists, noting that the incidents that occurred in Egypt are simple and may occur anywhere in the world. He asserted that the security forces are in full control of the situation and that he disagrees with anyone who says there is violence in Egypt.

On the latest Iraqi decision to recognize Kuwait and whether he believes that Iraq has done all that is necessary and that the United Nations should lift the blockade on oil exports and certain sanctions, President Mubarak said that the Iraqi step is good. He added: I hope this step is genuine. However, there are still certain clauses that the Security Council asked be implemented regarding nuclear, chemical, and other issues. He said that if Iraq complies with these resolutions, I believe that in this case the United Nations should lift the embargo. He said: Until the embargo is lifted we are concerned with finding a way to help the Iraqi people who have been affected by the embargo.

Postpones Visit to Poland

NC2111205694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has decided to postpone his visit to Poland to another date that will be set later. Stating this, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak will begin his visit to Italy tomorrow, Tuesday [22 November]. He said that talks will be held between President Mubarak and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi after Mubarak's arrival in Rome. He noted that President Mubarak will meet with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro in the evening and that a dinner banquet will be hosted after the meeting in honor of President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation. Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak will also meet with Pope John Paul and a number of Italian political figures and will grant interviews to a number of television stations and newspapers in Italy and Romania.

Leaves London for Rome

NC2211110994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 22 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left London for Rome today after a three-day visit to Britain. During the visit he held talks with British Prime Minister John Major and other high-ranking government officials. He also met opposition leader Tony Blair.

Kuwait

UN Envoy on Red Cross Meeting With Iraq's 'Aziz

LD2011010294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2048 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Geneva 19 Nov—Mohammad al-Sallal, Kuwait's representative at United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, today praised the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to bring about a solution to the affair of Kuwaiti detainees and POW's in Iraq.

In an interview he gave to KUNA, al-Sallal said that the essential issue for the State of Kuwait is the return of all the POW's and detainees in Kuwait.

In his comments regarding the meeting in Geneva today between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister in the Iraqi regime, and ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga, al-Sallal said: The meeting came at an appropriate time. [passage omitted]

Al-Sallal said: The Iraqi regime has to prove the truth of its words by deeds and to manifest its good intentions by cooperating with the ICRC in order to reach a satisfactory solution to the issue of the POW's.

Al-Sallal expressed his hope that Aziz's meeting with Sommaruga would produce tangible results.

He said: The timing of the meeting is suitable as it precedes a meeting in Geneva in early December of the tripartite committee in charge of the issue of the POW's.

In a statement to KUNA following the one-hour meeting between Aziz and Sommaruga, Michel Cagneux, ICRC officer for the Middle East and North Africa, said: 'Aziz reiterated his intention to cooperate with the ICRC on the issue of the Kuwaiti detainees within the framework of the Geneva treaties.

An ICRC spokesman said that the Iraqi delegation to the meeting also included Riyad al-Qaysi, the Iraqi regime's deputy foreign affairs minister, and Barzan al-Takriti, the regime's permanent ambassador to United Nations Headquarters in Geneva.

Russian Prime Minister, Delegation Pay Visit

Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD2111120894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the visit by the prime minister of the Russian Federation to our country, two agreements were signed at 1130 today at Bayan Palace on encouraging and protecting investments and setting up a joint committee on economic, trade, and scientific and technical cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Russian Federation.

The two agreements were signed by Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and finance minister, and by Mr. Oleg Davydov, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign economic relations in the Russian Federation.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Mr. Viktor Bosuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, signed a protocol regulating consultations between the two countries Foreign Ministries.

Later, an agreement on information cooperation and an executive program for cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries was signed by Faysal al-Hajji, under secretary at the Information Ministry, and by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Bosuvalyuk.

Minister Meets Russian Military Chief

LD2111175994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 21 Nov—Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian committee for the defense industry branches, had a meeting here today with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Glukhikh, who is accompanying visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, discussed ways of bolstering and promoting cooperation between the two countries in the military sphere.

The Russian official stressed his country's firm commitment to the security of the State of Kuwait and its readiness to participate in joint action to maintain peace and stability in the region.

The Kuwaiti defense minister expressed his satisfaction at the existing cooperation between the two countries' armed forces.

In the context of the Russian delegation's visit to Kuwait, Oleg Davydov, Russian deputy prime minister and foreign economic relations minister, met today with the commissioned member of the Public Investment Corporation, Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Badr.

Davydov and al-Badr discussed ways of bolstering joint economic cooperation between Russia and the State of Kuwait.

Chernomyrdin Meets Oil Minister

LD2111174894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 21 Nov—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met here today with a delegation of the board of directors of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a number of businessmen.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'ud al-Nasir al-Sabah, information minister and acting oil minister.

Russian fuel and power engineering minister, Yuriy Shafranik, also met today with Shaykh Sa'ud al-Nasir al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Sulayman al-'Umani, the Oil Ministry undersecretary; Nadir al-Sultan, deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation [KPC] and commissioned member for planning and international operations; and a number of officials of the Oil Ministry and the KPC.

Chernomyrdin Praises Visit's Results

LD2111183894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Nov—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed his country's readiness to work toward guaranteeing the implementation of all the Security Council's resolutions by the Iraqi regime, including those in connection with freeing all Kuwaiti prisoners detained in Iraq.

Chernomyrdin said in a news conference held here today on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait that Russia "would do its utmost to ensure the sovereignty of justice and international legitimacy in this region and the return of the missing to their homes."

He added that Russia has exerted its efforts to resolve the existing problems in the region and expressed his happiness for the Security Council's welcome of Iraq's recent recognition of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin referred to his meetings with high-ranking Kuwaiti officials and praised the results that have been reached. He said he met the Kuwaiti amir and discussed with him "the main directions of bilateral cooperation."

He added that he met Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah and members of the Kuwaiti Government and pointed out that a number of bilateral agreements have been signed.

Chernomyrdin Holds News Conference

LD2111234394 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1846 GMT 21 Nov 94

[News conference by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah with correspondents from newspapers, news agencies, and local Arab and foreign media in the al-Bayan Palace in Kuwait on 21 November—recorded; Chernomyrdin speaks in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Sabah] [passage omitted] I can say that there was full understanding and agreement in all the talks at all levels, whether political or economic, as well as in the fields of security and information between the two countries. Several agreements were signed today between Kuwait and Russia that cover many fields including economic, information, and others. On this occasion, we highly praise the stance of the Russian Federation toward the main Kuwaiti issue through its firm stance at the UN Security Council in supporting Kuwait's rights. [passage omitted]

[Chernomyrdin] Respected ladies and gentlemen taking part in this news conference today: Today is the end of the second day of our official visit to the State of Kuwait. As is known, this visit is the first of its kind by a Russian representative at such a senior level to Kuwait. Before this news conference, I had a meeting with representatives of Kuwaiti businessmen, and we are opening up Kuwait for us in many domains. We are happy and satisfied by this. We are also happy about the results of this visit. We had a meeting and very detailed and lengthy talk with his highness the amir, with whom we discussed the basic and important trends of bilateral cooperation.

Today we had a heavy program: We had detailed talks with the Kuwaiti prime minister and members of the Kuwaiti Government. I believe that the documents we signed today will enable us to invigorate coordination and cooperation in various new fields. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Name indistinct] from the newspaper AL SIYASSAH. Your excellency the prime minister, Russia has made efforts to enable it to return to its international status as a superpower, and has been able, with some given agreements with the Iraqi regime, to obtain directly from this regime the recognition of the Kuwaiti borders, which were demarcated by the Security Council in accordance with a special committee. Is it possible for Russia, according to this method, to make efforts with regard to the prisoners and the accused issue and the return of stolen property to Kuwait. What about the compensation for Kuwait by the Iraqi regime? Thank you.

[Chernomyrdin] Russia has made efforts so that the problems of this region are solved. We are very pleased that the Kuwaiti National Assembly has today welcomed the Iraqi recognition of the sovereignty and international borders of Kuwait. I believe that today is a great and very important occasion.

Russia will continue to make efforts aimed at the implementation of all the resolutions of the UN Security Council that you talked about. I will repeat once again that we will do all we can so that justice and international legality prevail in this region, and so that those missing return home. Naturally, we will make efforts in this direction and we will do all we can for this.

[Correspondent] Adnan Makhali from AL-WATAN newspaper. Your excellency the prime minister, your foreign affairs minister has clearly announced over the past few days: Give us 6 billion [currency not specified] to forget everything connected with Iraq. Political analysts mentioned that Russia's stance on the implementation of the rest of the resolutions in the future depends on achieving economic gains in this tour, this is the first part of the question. As for the second part, is there anything in the [word indistinct] Iraqi regime to prompt you to trust it to this large extent? Thank you.

[Chernomyrdin] It is known that Iraq is indebted to us, and that this factor is present and indicates once more the importance of law and legitimacy for us. Even in this situation, considering our economic circumstances and our economic losses from the blockade, we cannot support the occupation, and we were and still are by the side of the Kuwaiti people.

As for the agreement on the remaining problems, I believe that the Kuwaiti's must be more optimistic. We will do everything we can to ensure the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners from Iraq. Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council. We took part in making the well-known decisions at the Security Council. These were our types of behavior, and there could not have been any other type of behavior.

[Correspondent] 'Abd al-Min'im al-Sisi from the Egyptian paper AL-WAFD. Clearly there are contacts between Russia and Iraq as shown by Andrey Kozyrev's recent visit to Iraq. Iraq's recent recognition has brought nothing new because there were diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Iraq before the Iraqi occupation, which indicates the recognition of each party of the other party. The question now is: Through your contacts will there be a full recognition by Iraq of all the UN Security Council resolutions, and what is the means or the guarantee for implementing these resolutions by Iraq. Thank you.

[Chernomyrdin] In these present circumstances I cannot make statements about what the Iraqi leadership should do, but I believe that the international community has specific means to bring influence. I believe that the people of Kuwait and Iraq, who have long lived in peace in coexistence and had relations between each other, will return to all this.

[Unidentified INTERFAX correspondent, in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation] Mr. Prime Minister, you have recently visited two countries. We imagine there are similarities between the results of these visits. The first question is: What are these similarities? The second question with more details is: Do you believe that there are possibilities for large Kuwaiti investments in some major projects in Russia, such as the petroleum consortium of the Caspian Sea?

[Chernomyrdin] I will begin with the second question: I do not just believe, but I am convinced that Kuwaiti businessmen and the Kuwaiti business sector are liable to take part intensively and constructively in the realization of major investment projects in Federal Russia. As is known, we have a large number of these very attractive projects. I believe that investments do not interest only Russia, but also Kuwait and Third World countries. Our great technological, scientific, and technical capabilities are greatly welcomed for the common Russian-Kuwaiti interest. What is important in this domain before anything else is the petroleum and gas sector. As for the first question, I can say first that Russia has changed and we are changing, too. We are becoming more open to representatives of this region, an important region situated within direct proximity of the Russian borders. We agree on a great number of issues, and I do not believe Russia that only has an interest in this region. But the interests of the states of this region are in Russia, too. We have an intensive program and we have little time, so please the last question.

[Unidentified AL-AHRAM correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, regarding agreements concluded in Kuwait, you have not mentioned any military or weapons-related agreements. Second, how do you view the future of the world in the presence of the sole current power: The United States. Thank you.

[Chernomyrdin] First question: We discussed issues related to military cooperation and arms imports. In this context we have reached full understanding. As for the second question: We must think about the issue. At any rate, as far as I am concerned and as far as Federal Russia is concerned, there are no problems. We are working and cooperating with the USA and with other states in this world, and we will cooperate in the future. I tell you frankly that in the future we do not intend to engage in power games.

[Correspondent] Diana Abu-Haydar from UPI: Prime Minister, could you give us an idea about the agreements you signed today?

[Chernomyrdin] Five agreements were signed. There was an agreement concerning encouraging investments, which is very important to Russian and Kuwaiti businessmen. There was a second agreement on the setting up of a mixed committee for trade, economic, security-related, and technical cooperation. Such a committee did not exist before, and it was difficult to imagine large-scale cooperation without it. During this visit we saw businessmen, and we had talks with the government. We better realized that in fact some Kuwaitis do not know Russia well, or they know it in some domains only. For this reason, we signed a third agreement concerning the information field. The fourth agreement is for cultural and scientific cooperation between the government of Federal Russia and the government of Kuwait. Fifth, we signed a protocol on consultations between the Russian and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministries. These are important documents that will allow us to strengthen and invigorate bilateral cooperation. Thank you gentlemen.

Oman

Sultan Receives Iran's Velayati, Rafsanjani Message

JN2111164494 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a written message from His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic

Republic of Iran, on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields. The letter is part of the ongoing consultations between the two leaders on issues of mutual regional interest.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati delivered the letter when his excellency the sultan received him in the sultan's tent camp.

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying the Iranian foreign minister attended the meeting.

Further on Sultan-Velayati Meeting

LD2111201594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's foreign minister, who is currently touring three Islamic countries in the region, met Sultan Qabus of Oman this afternoon and submitted to him a message from the Iranian president.

In this meeting, Sultan Qabus said the expansion of Tehran-Muscat cooperation and the exchange of ideas about the issues of Islam were very important for preserving regional peace and stability.

Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in turn, said cooperation based on honesty, integrity, and mutual trust was highly conducive to the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf.

Dr. Velayati also expressed his congratulations to the government and nation of Oman on the occasion of the independence anniversary of that country.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Meets Iranian Counterpart

JN2111211194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 21 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani met in Doha today with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently visiting Doha.

The Qatari News Agency reported that the two officials discussed bilateral ties and means of improving them in the various fields. They also exchanged viewpoints on developments in the Gulf as well as a number of other regional, Islamic, and world issues of mutual concern.

Velayati Concludes Visit

JN2211113494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 22 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Doha today following a two-day visit to Qatar. Velayati held talks with Qatari officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Saudia Arabia

Finance Minister on Russian Debt Rescheduling

LD2111204694 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl has remarked on a statement attributed to Oleg Davydov, Russian deputy prime minister and foreign economic relations minister, reported by some news agencies regarding the signing of an agreement on rescheduling a loan by Saudi Arabia and an agreement on setting up a joint investment fund.

In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency, his excellency said that the Russian Government was not in debt to the Saudi Government. However, two Saudi banks had extended a bank loan to the Soviet Union in 1991 before its collapse.

In view of the fact that Russia has made an international undertaking to assume responsibility for the loans signed by the Soviet Union before its collapse, the Saudi banks demanded the payment of the outstanding amount of the loan, amounting to 250 million dollars.

His excellency said: To help the two banks in their demand, the issue was raised at a meeting with his excellency, the deputy prime minister, during his visit accompanying the Russian prime minister. I urged his excellency to look into the Saudi banks' demand, and he promised to do so.

Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl added: The Russian deputy prime minister suggested during a meeting the setting up of a joint investment fund on the basis that the fund would be set up by the private sector in the two countries. His excellency was told that the proposal concerned the private commercial banking sector, that the Saudi Government was not a party to it, and that Saudi banks would be informed of that. Nothing more than that was discussed.

United Arad Emirates

Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin Arrives

JN2211093594 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (WAKH)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this morning on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates within his tour of a number of regional states.

Chernomyrdin will hold talks with Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid, deputy prime minister, who received him upon his arrival, on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Economic Activity

JN2111195494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has chaired a meeting that included 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president; Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn; 'Isam al-Mulla Huwaysh, governor of the Central Bank of Iraq; and Public Security Department Director Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan.

During the meeting, conferees discussed one of the aspects of economic activity in the country. Necessary measures in this regard were taken.

Hatim Hamdun al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the meeting.

Saddam Funds Marshland Village Development

JN2011180594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that 71 million dinars be allocated to develop health, municipal, and electricity services in marshland villages west of the al-'Izz River in al-Basrah Governorate.

This was made public in a statement to an INA correspondent by al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud, who said that the money will be used to build elementary and preparatory schools and health centers and to provide an electricity network for the villages.

Leader President Saddam Husayn early this year ordered that 35 million dinars be allocated to build drinking water compounds, two health centers, three schools, and a new electricity network.

Government Claims 385,000 Sanctions-Related Deaths

JN2111140794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Official figures released by the Iraqi Ministry of Health have noted that as of March 1994, some 385,000 persons had died due to the food and medicine blockade the U.S. Administration is imposing on Iraq.

The figures, contained in a leaflet issued by the Ministry of Culture and Information, indicated that deaths in Iraq in 1989; that is, one year before the sanctions regime went into effect, totaled 28,334. The huge disparity between the number of deaths in 1989 and the number of deaths reported since 1990, when the food and medicine blockade went into effect, provides tangible proof of the magnitude of the heinous crime committed by the United States and its allies against the peaceful Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Regime Forces Reportedly Seal, Search al-Nasariyah

NC2111154494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The regime's security forces have stormed citizens' homes in al-Nasariyah and arrested people accused of cooperating with the patriotic forces opposing the regime. People arriving in Baghdad said the ruling regime prepared for this operation, which took place at the beginning of this week, by closing off all the entrances to the city of al-Nasariyah and the areas around it. The regime's security forces then carried out searches and storming operations in much of the city.

Imams, Preachers Reportedly Arrested for Criticism

NC2111155294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling Baghdad regime's authorities have arrested preachers and imams [words indistinct] after growing criticism by the men of religion in Iraq against the ruling regime's practices. Arrivals in Amman say that the arrests, including men of religion in al-Fallujah, al-Ramadi, Mosul, and Baghdad, took place during the past two weeks after Friday prayer sermons in these cities.

Paper: U.S. Stand 'Politically, Morally Bankrupt'

JN1911100594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has said that during the recent UN Security Council session, Albright, the U.S. representative to the UN Security Council, ignored the most basic diplomatic standards and traditions.

In an article published today, the Baghdad daily says that the recent U.S. stand at the UN Security Council was shallow, confused, and politically and morally bankrupt.

The paper adds that the UN Security Council's recent meeting to hold its periodic review [of the sanctions] has tangibly proved that the international trend supporting the lifting or easing of the blockade imposed on Iraq has developed and gathered further momentum.

The paper notes that the United States and Britain are unable to rally any support for their move to confront the support for Iraq and the Iraqi moves with regard to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper asserts that the irrational and aggressive U.S. dealing with Iraq stems from hate of the Iraqi people, historic leadership, and firm will to continue building and steadfastness.

The paper says that the recent U.S. stands prove the unavailability of any pretext whatsoever to justify this insane insistence on maintaining the blockade.

He paper adds: Therefore, it was natural for the U.S. Administration to search here and there for trivialities to conceal its evil intentions so as not to be totally exposed before the strong flow of facts on the international scene.

AL-THAWRAH Views Gaza Incident

JN2011102294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said: It was Gaza's destiny to be the starting point for the armed revolution in 1967, the intifadah in late 1987, and then the authority of the Oslo Agreement. It may now become the staring point for a bloody conflict.

In an article written by Hasan al-Kashif for the "Attention" column, the paper says: It just took a few months to change the direction of bullets and stones. These months were also enough to change the feelings of the masses of the people, who received the police with a display of glory and pride at the moment of salvation from occupation out of the belief that they were a prerequisite for survival and building the future.

The paper's article is in reaction to the armed conflicts among Palestinians in Gaza the day before yesterday when police opened fire at those who turned Gaza into a nightmare for the occupation troops.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Over 200 people were either killed or wounded on Black Friday, which may signal the beginning of a civil war, whose bloody dimensions and destructive consequences to the entire Palestinian national project no one can predict.

The paper adds: The Oslo Agreement did not win the approval of the Palestinian people. Instead, it caused discord among the people and their forces and factions and inside the PLO and its institutions. The agreement also failed to provide a solution for the people of Gaza who are being punished by the occupation though starvation and blockade whenever Tel Aviv's security is shaken by a kidnapped soldier or a boobytrapped bus or motorcycle.

The paper adds: The Oslo Agreement was not presented to the Palestine National Council or a plebiscite as Tel Aviv has done in similar cases. Therefore, is it surprising to see an opposition that does not abide by a cease-fire with an enemy who continues to occupy parts of the Gaza Strip, all of Jerusalem and the West Bank, and the other parts of Palestine?

The paper stresses that Tel Aviv is not uninvolved in Black Friday. It set the scene for the crime by flooding the area with weapons before it made a partial withdrawal in accordance with the conditions of the Oslo Agreement which create friction and spark a fire.

The paper concludes by saying: If Black Friday provides the spark for an awakening that will redraw developments and relations in a nationalistic direction, then the blood of the victims did not go in vain. But if it provides the spark for a civil war, then that blood, and all the blood that will be spilled in the future, will be spilled in vain.

Red Crescent Sends Aid to Autonomous Region

JN1811180094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi Red Crescent Society [IRCS] today began to transport the second batch of food and medical aid to our people in the Autonomous Region governorates. This aid was donated by various Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

IRCS head Dr. Sa'dun Khalifah explained to INA that the aid was received in response to repeated calls made through the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These calls aimed to highlight the Iraqi people's suffering due to the continued unfair blockade imposed on them.

Dr. Khalifah said the share of each Autonomous Region governorate will be 18 tonnes of rice, six tonnes of lentils, and three tonnes of edible fat. He said the disbursement operations will be supervised by Anthony Marion [name as transliterated], head of the international mission of the International Union of the Red Crescents [title as received], and a number of experts representing EC Red Cross societies.

Rabin Comments on Talks With Clinton, Departs

TA2111194194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Bill Clinton said following today's meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he will seek to sustain the level of his country's aid to Israel. [passage omitted]

The meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin lasted over an hour, and most of it was a tete-a-tete between the two leaders.

Prime Minister Rabin will leave for Canada at the end of his U.S. visit.

The prime minister said after his meeting with President Clinton that he and the President reviewed peace process developments. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that replying to a question on the prospects of progress with Syria, Mr. Rabin said we will know more in a week or two.

In his talks with the President, the prime minister raised the threat posed by what he termed the ugly wave of radical Islam which endangers Israel as well as the stability in the Middle East and beyond. He drew Clinton's attention to Iran's conventional weapons procurement and its efforts to acquire nonconventional weapons.

Press Reviews Rabin's U.S. Visit

TA2211103494

[FBIS Editorial Report] Israeli media on 22 November carry various reports on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks in the aftermath of his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Republican leader Robert Dole in Washington on 21 November.

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT carries a report by Washington correspondent Arye Golan, who notes that at a dinner at the residence of Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, Rabin "once again reiterated his satisfaction with the talk he held yesterday with President Bill Clinton." Golan adds that, summing up his meetings, the prime minister said "that our current relations with the United States are good and steadfast."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT adds that Rabin stated at the dinner that "defending the roads used by the settlers in the Gaza Strip is wearing out the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and that, in his opinion, there is no solution to this. It is very difficult for Israel to deal with suicide operators perpetrating terror attacks, the prime minister asserted, and there is no way to deal with a suicide terrorist other than to strike at him and those who send him on his mission."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el at 0600 GMT adds that, at the same dinner, Rabin said "he did not raise the issue of stationing U.S. troops on the Golan in the meeting with President Clinton, because this is not the main problem on the road to peace with Syria. Mr. Rabin disclosed that President Clinton did not propose that Israel recognize Syria's sovereignty over all of the Golan Heights."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT, in a report by Washington correspondent Udi Segal, adds: "Rabin disclosed that he brought up the case of Jonathan Pollard, the Israeli spy, but emphasized that he did not want to raise any expectations."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 November carries several reports on Prime Minister Rabin's meetings and remarks in Washington. A report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Aluf Ben, and Yerah Tal on pages A1 and A2 reports on the Clinton-Rabin meeting, noting that "the two men discussed the economic and security pressures under which 'Arafat is operating. They agreed that it is vital to ensure as soon as possible that the Palestinian public in the territories perceives the Palestinian Authority as the only authoritative power. Rabin stressed the importance of improving the dire economic situation in the territories."

The report adds that "in his talk with the President, Rabin referred to the U.S. activity in the multinational force in the Sinai, stressing that the Golan also requires observers—a role that involves no substantive risk to the troops."

"Another issue raised by Rabin was U.S. financing of the Arrow antimissile missile. Clinton pledged to continue financing the project in principle, although he did not commit himself to specific amounts. The two men agreed that the Pentagon and the Israeli Defense Ministry will discuss their view of the Arrow's status in three to four years."

"The meeting also addressed Israel's need for greater access to the U.S. supercomputers. Clinton promised to look into the matter and to try to meet Israel's needs."

Writing on page A2, Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar report on Rabin's remarks to the media following his meeting with President Clinton. Rabin is quoted as having said: "I told the President that I and the government—and I believe also the Israeli people—are grateful for his guidance, involvement, and pledge—he made a promise and stood by it—to make sure that when Israel takes risks in its quest for peace, the United States will do all it can to minimize those risks."

The report adds: "Rabin further told the reporters that he raised the problem of Israel's POW's and MIA's in his meeting with the President. 'I asked the United States to continue the effort, steered by the President, of searching for Baumel, Katz, and Feldman, the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's; for the bodies of Alsheikh and Fink; and, naturally, for Ron Arad. I asked the United States to make an effort, and the President promised he will.'

"Rabin was asked whether he heard any news about the Syrian track from Clinton. 'I heard no news here. The problem is to find ways to continue the process and the negotiations. The Americans will look into that, and I hope we will know more within a week or two,' he said. He added there was no agreement to renew the Washington talks."

Writing on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, Aluf Ben reports from Washington on Rabin's remarks at the dinner hosted by Amb. Rabinovich. Ben quotes Rabin as having said: "Unless the United States continues to lead the peace process as it has to date, peace will stand no chance. The peace process will be in jeopardy unless it is led by the United States, which is ready to use its military strength and grant economic aid for that purpose."

Peres Demands Support for 'Arafat To Save Peace

AU2111163594 Vienna PROFIL in German 21 Nov 94 p 64

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by T. Szyszkowitz in Jerusalem; date not given: "Please Help 'Arafat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Szyszkowitz] Mr. Peres, President Ezer Weizman was against the meeting between President Thomas Klestil and Yasir 'Arafat. Would it not have been better for Austria's role as a country that holds talks with all sides to honor the Palestinians in Gaza with a visit?

[Peres] Of course. However, in view of the recent bomb attack carried out by the Islamic Jihad in Gaza, our president deemed a visit unsuitable. Yet I believe that we must support 'Arafat wherever we can. Thus, a visit by the Austrian president to Gaza would have been quite useful.

[Szyszkowitz] Not all leading Israeli politicians share your view that, as a partner for peace, 'Arafat should be treated with due respect. After the bus attack in Tel Aviv, Weizman rejected 'Arafat's condolences, and it is quite obvious that your Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is still reluctant to shake hands with 'Arafat.

[Peres] One day they will realize that I was right. 'Arafat is in a very difficult position. It is very important for us to do everything possible to help him—financially, politically, and diplomatically.

[Szyszkowitz] Should Israel provide direct financial support for the autonomous Palestinian territories?

[Peres] We should stop hiring Palestinian labor in Israel. It should happen the other way round: We should send our people to Gaza so that they can help rebuild the region. We Israelis have learned how one can quickly create a state in the middle of the desert.

[Szyszkowitz] Will the talks in Cairo where the elections for the Palestinian Autonomy Council and the extension of the autonomy to the West Bank are being discussed soon yield results?

[Peres] To be honest, it will take months until progress is visible. We must clarify important points concerning the elections. Only then can we talk about an extension of the autonomy.

[Szyszkowitz] What difference is there between the Israeli and the Palestinian position concerning elections in the autonomous region?

[Peres] The Palestinians want to elect a parliament with legislative rights. We cannot agree to that. They will only get an autonomous government body.

[Szyszkowitz] What speaks against a real parliament? Everybody is demanding democratic models from 'Arafat, but so far he and his ministers are not even in a position to issue regulations on waste disposal without Israeli consent.

[Peres] This is naturally a problem. Yet if we grant the Palestinians legislative rights, 'Arafat will not only adopt laws on waste disposal. What if he declares Palestine's independence as a first measure? It is too early for that. The following is clearly stipulated in the basic agreement concluded in Oslo: We are going through a transitional phase. The state form will be discussed in the final negotiations.

[Szyszkowitz] 'Arafat would like to be elected directly as Palestinian president. Israel has so far rejected that. However, the Israeli negotiators seem to be more flexible here than on the issue concerning parliament.

[Peres] That is right. A compromise may soon be reached. If he wants to be elected directly—we are not against it. We should not interfere too much in his affairs anyway.

[Szyszkowitz] This sounds strange in view of the fact that your government virtually has to approve every flower that is planted in the Gaza Strip.

[Peres] Well, this has been stipulated in the agreement. This should be the basis of our negotiations. Otherwise there is the danger of a chaos on all sides. The whole process is extremely fragile.

[Szyszkowitz] Are you afraid that the peace process will collapse because of the bomb war announced by Palestinian opposition groups?

[Peres] We are going through a very difficult phase. 'Arafat must prove that he can control Hamas and the other Islamic groups. This is the precondition.

[Szyszkowitz] However, how can one expect 'Arafat's police to destroy Hamas if even the powerful Israeli Army failed to do so?

[Peres] This is the reason why I say that 'Arafat must be supported by everybody to enable him to control the opposition.

[Szyszkowitz] The peace agreement with Jordan and the economic conference in Casablanca where the Arab boycott was ended three weeks ago show that your vision of a flourishing, peaceful Middle East was right.

[Peres] Who would have thought two years ago that we could achieve so much! Even now the face of the region has changed completely. Only Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad still refuses to accept the new situation. Yet he can still wait and see. But this will not improve his situation. In fact, the peace process in the Middle East is no bed of roses but it is irreversible.

Peres To Urge Donor Countries To Speed Up PA Funds

TA2211073694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will attend next week's conference of the donor countries in Brussels. He told Qol Yisra'el he would urge the donor countries to speed up the transfer of funds to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He added that Israel also intends to increase its contribution. Peres said Yasir 'Arafat would probably attend, and the meeting would be an informal forum with the European countries, the United States, and the United Nations organization.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 22 November carries a similar report in which Peres says in a recorded passage: "After spending almost 30 years there, Israel left behind a more crowded, a poorer, and a more bitter Gaza. There are no two ways about it: People who live in crowded conditions and poverty are people who rebel."]

Peres disclosed that in the next three months, three more Arab countries will establish relations with Israel.

Peres Says Gaza Strip Close to 'Explosion'

TA2111174094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the situation in the Gaza Strip is close to an explosion. The foreign minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the solution to the problems for Israel in the Netzarim area is to dismantle the settlement there. Members of the committee are to be briefed tomorrow on the details of the clash on Saturday [19 November] in Netzarim, in which soldiers left their outpost and one of them was later killed. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ridiculed any accusations from Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that Israel was to blame for the tensions in the Gaza Strip between the PA and its opponents, which erupted over the weekend.

[Peres] I don't have to answer any foolish accusations and I would not judge everybody without considering the situation which prevails when such a declaration is being made.

[Ze'ev] As for Israel's problems in the Netzarim area, Peres once again attacked the Israeli settlers there. According to a Knesset official at the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Peres said of the settlement, the solution is to pull out that thorn. The situation in the Gaza Strip, the foreign minister said, is close to an explosion. The crossing into Israel was practically closed to Palestinians, the crossing to Egypt is closed, and there are no jobs, Peres pointed out. In the past, he said, when Israel imposed a closure, it transferred monies to create jobs. Foreign Minister Peres said the donor states are to meet next week amid a situation of tremendous economic distress, in Peres' words.

After the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Peres told reporters that Israel's only objection to an agreement between the PA and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] would be if it violated the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO.

[Peres] We do not want to pretend as though we are intervening in what is happening in Gaza, that we are imposing ourselves, that we are providing counsel, or taking sides. We know that in many countries you may have many views, many positions, but just one armed authority. If you have more than one armed authority you are heading for a catastrophe, and we have recognized the PA. The PA is the only one that has the right to hold arms, to police the area, and to be responsible for the security of the people under its jurisdiction.

[Ze'ev] The issue of Israeli soldiers leaving their outpost at Netzarim was a subject which drew sharp criticism within the committee. Peres promised an army reply to every complaint concerning the clash, in which the Israeli soldiers handed over responsibility to the Palestinians, in accordance with the terms of the agreement between Israel and the PA, an incident which ended in the death of an Israeli soldier after the Israelis returned to the outpost. [end recording]

Peres: Argentina 'Suitable' Messenger to Syria

TA2111111094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Argentine President Carlos Menem is a suitable person to convey messages related to the peace process between Israel and Syria. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz points out that Israeli officials, however, expressed great doubts about Menem's ability to fulfill this task, noting that he is not popular in Syria. President Menem, who is of Syrian descent, is scheduled to hold his first visit to Damascus this week.

Peres: Campaign Against U.S. Troops 'Scandalous'

TA2111093894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the campaign being waged by Israeli elements in the

United States against stationing U.S. soldiers on the Golan Heights is scandalous. Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that in the past, Israel was always careful not to air its internal disagreements abroad. Minister Peres noted that detailed discussions have never been held on the possibility of stationing U.S. troops on the Golan Heights.

Netanyahu on U.S. Troops on Golan, 'Arafat Conduct

TA2111125594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu has said that the struggle between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is not about stopping terrorism against Israel. 'Arafat has still not detained a single wanted man and has not handed any over to Israel. 'Arafat does not operate against Islamic terrorism aimed at Israel, but acts temporarily against threats to his administration. Israel's dependence on Yasir 'Arafat is a mistake.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Netanyahu said that the deployment of 1,000 American soldiers on the Golan Heights would be insignificant because they cannot stop Syrian tanks. If we want to remove IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers from the Golan Heights, they should be replaced by fighting forces with tanks.

'Hints' of IDF Involvement in Gaza Deaths Denied

TA2111185294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today rejected 'Arafat's hints that Israel was involved in some way in the death of demonstrators in Gaza last Friday [18 November]. Last night, 'Arafat presented x-rays of the fatalities and hinted that they died from Israeli bullets. [passage omitted]

Home of 'Terrorist' Demolished in Qalqilyah

TA2211052994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Qalqilyah, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bulldozers demolished the house of Salah Nazzal, the terrorist who perpetrated the bloody terror attack on the bus in Tel Aviv. The house was demolished in the wake of the High Court of Justice decision to reject the family's appeal. The adjacent housing unit of Nazzal's brother and his family was not demolished.

Beilin Meets With Saudi Official in U.S.

TA2211053694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin conferred with the minister plenipotentiary at the Saudi Embassy in the United States in the first meeting of its kind. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the meeting took place in Aspen, Colorado, at a convention of businessmen and ambassadors from Arab countries. After the meeting, it was announced that the Saudis intend to be involved in the development and financing of an industrial park to be built at the Erez checkpoint.

Attempts To Counter Islamic Terror Viewed

TA1911175494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Nov 94 pp 4, 5, 17

[Article by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Gloves Off"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "I am optimistic," a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer said this week, "I know from past experience and my knowledge of what our input is going to be that ultimately we will have the upper hand in the struggle against Islamic fundamentalist terror. The question is how long it will take, how many Jews will be killed, and whether the terror will kill the political process in the meantime."

Never in the seven years since the outbreak of the intifadah have the IDF top echelon and the intelligence community been under such pressure as in the last few weeks. A few more suicidal terror attacks, senior officers say, and the peace process might come to a halt. The government would be unable to proceed with the implementation of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria when the personal safety of Israel's citizens is deteriorating. "If it decides to ignore public sentiment and go ahead with the implementation of the agreement despite the terror attacks, the government might fall," a key defense official assessed this week.

Hence, public pressure and practical considerations will not enable the IDF and the Shin Bet to pull out of the center of towns in the West Bank, the Palestinians will be unable to hold elections and assume responsibility for other areas, and the Oslo agreement will become a dead letter. As soon as the process with the Palestinians stops, senior officials believe, the negotiations with Syria and the normalization with Jordan will freeze. This will subsequently arrest the momentum of reconciliation with the Persian Gulf states and the Maghreb countries. Security officials fear that everything Israel has achieved since the Madrid conference might go down the drain because of a handful of religious fanatics.

Indeed, they are no more than a handful. Security officials estimate that the number of people actively involved in terror attacks by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad's military arm does not exceed a few dozen—no more than 50 men, including Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and operating from there.

The number of field commanders, such as Yahya 'Ayyash ("the engineer") from Samaria or Muhammad

Dhib (Abu-Khalid) from Gaza, who initiate attacks, choose the targets, and oversee the preparations is even smaller—less than 10. However, the resolute nature of the fanatic Islamic terror, the experience acquired by its perpetrators, and the willingness of some of them to die in the process make it very hard to lay a hand on them or to prevent the attacks.

It seems that the Rabin government has a comprehensive plan to fight Islamic terror. Not all cabinet members are familiar with its specifics, and, as far as is known, it was never presented in full in any forum. Its components, however, have been formulated and discussed and are very well known to defense establishment officials.

Based on talks with knowledgeable sources we managed to reconstruct the plan almost in full (within censorship restrictions, of course). The strategic part of the plan defines the medium- and long-term objectives:

—A solution to the various forms of Arab terror threatening the personal safety of Israel's citizens lies in the geographic separation between Israelis and Palestinians. As long as the friction continues it is almost impossible to prevent suicide attacks and their awful consequences.

—Until a separation is attained, pinpointed action must be taken against terror and its perpetrators based on intelligence data. At the same time, an attempt must be made to eradicate the breeding ground on which terror squads grow and from which they get support in terms of money, collaborators, and weapons. This objective should be attained, among other things, with the help of international assistance and of the Palestinian Authority [PA].

—Even at the hardest of times we should not antagonize the Muslim world. We must maintain the "local" nature of the struggle against terror and abstain from turning it into a head-on confrontation between Judaism and Islam through inflammatory declarations, unbridled accusations, or harsh collective punishments. Such an all-out confrontation will not only increase the circle of hate and affect Jews abroad but will also sabotage the normalization of relations with the Muslim countries.

—Israel's citizens must be told that the struggle against fanatic Islamic terror will ultimately be won by the side that shows the most resistance. This holds true for Lebanon just as it applies to the territories. "Israelis should be required to show such resistance because some very tough trials lie in store for us," a senior officer says.

—The fight against terror will be waged within the confines of Israel's law, even if this involves giving up operational and intelligence advantages.

So much for the general strategic principles. The relentless war on Islamic terror will be underscored by a stepped-up intelligence and operational effort designed to bring about the capture (or total neutralization) of squad leaders and field commanders. Senior security officials say that without the guidance and support of these field commanders even suicide operators will not be able to do anything more than a simple stabbing.

In order to neutralize the field commanders, however, one must get to them. And here is where the Shin Bet and the IDF have run up against a series of new problems that will have to be solved.

The impressive achievements scored by the Shin Bet in its fight against PLO terror stemmed mainly from the fact that the PLO was a relatively orderly organization. It had a centralized and hierarchical leadership which was based abroad, issued orders, and transferred money and weapons to activists in the territories and in Lebanon. The clear knowledge of who did what enabled the Israeli intelligence community, helped by excellent technical equipment and skilled personnel, to monitor the PLO.

Moreover, the PLO's political leadership attempted to attain its political objectives by combining terror operations with international pressure on Israel. Consequently, its senior members traveled all over the world, many of them unscrupulously enjoying the good life.

The situation is different with the Muslim terror organizations. In Hamas, for example, there is a total separation between the senior political level, which is based in Jordan, Syria, and even in the territories, and the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. The field levels do not receive orders from the organization's leaders, and they are almost entirely independent.

However, instead of orders there is general guidance. In their sermons in the mosques clergymen preach to their audience about the organization's objectives. Additional explanations are provided by Hamas spokesmen in Jordan in interviews to the media. The field commanders listen and get a general picture of what is required of them. Then they tailor a terror attack to measure or plan it in accordance with the ability and means at their disposal at that particular time. All this is being done amid strict compartmentalization and meticulous selection of collaborators and associates.

One Hamas field commander selects his collaborators only from among former Israeli prison inmates who have expressed willingness to return to action. Under such conditions, it is very hard for the Shin Bet to act against the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads and to know on a daily basis what is happening inside them and what their members are planning.

The problem of obtaining information on organizations the members of which are driven by religious- nationalist motivations and a solid ideology is exacerbated by other difficulties that inhibit the Shin Bet's ability to gather intelligence in the territories. All these difficulties stem from the Oslo agreement and its implementation in the field: first and foremost, the pullout from Gaza and

Jericho, which has significantly reduced the ability of the Shin Bet and the IDF to gather intelligence there.

In contrast, the terror organizations have increased their ability to smuggle in standard explosives to areas under the PA's control. Until the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho the terrorists were forced to use homemade explosives, which were far less lethal. Today, military explosives such as TNT and Semtex (which have already been used by suicide terrorists in the attacks in Tel Aviv and Netzarim) are being smuggled in by sea, through tunnels under the border fence in Rafah, and apparently also through the border crossings with Egypt and Jordan.

Another difficulty encountered by the Shin Bet is the increasing reluctance of inhabitants of the territories, including in Judaea and Samaria, to collaborate with it. The decreasing dependence of these people on the Israeli Civil Administration in the wake of the transfer of powers has reduced the pressure and temptations the Shin Bet can use to recruit locals. They are also aware of the fact that very shortly the IDF will pull out of a large part of the territories, and they fear for their lives if their collaboration with Israel is revealed.

In this context, the heads of the security branches are full of criticism about the bad treatment of collaborators who Israel has been trying to rehabilitate on its soil. According to these senior sources, inhabitants of the territories and South Lebanese Army personnel in Lebanon inclined to collaborate with Israel get cold feet when they see the opposition of Israelis to relocate "burned" collaborators in their midst.

The plan to fight terror attempts to overcome the new difficulties regarding intelligence gathering in the territories by adding equipment and manpower to all the security branches, mainly the Shin Bet. However, new staff must be trained, new equipment must be purchased, and its operation must be mastered. All this takes time. Training a coordinator (a Shin Bet field agent) takes about two years. Training an investigator takes about three years, not to mention the formation of a new unit.

Another measure taken by the government in the context of this plan is the legal permit granted by the Ministerial Committee on Shin Bet Affairs to use tough interrogating methods in two cases: when the Shin Bet has information indicating that the suspect undergoing interrogation was directly involved in terror attacks or their preparation or in the event of a "ticking bomb," that is, when there are reasonable grounds to assume that the suspect knows about a planned attack.

Even in such cases, the interrogating methods must be those sanctioned by the Landau Commission, the use of which can only be permitted by the head of the Shin Bet. In any event, these do not include any torture that might do serious bodily harm to the suspect. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Diplomatic Relations With Israel

JN2211110394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet has approved the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the Governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel as of 27 November, in accordance with the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

King Holds Luncheon in Honor of Negotiating Team

JN2111211994 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Nov 94

[From the "New at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members of Jordan's negotiating team in peace talks with Israel were guests of his majesty the king at a luncheon in their honor at Basman Palace today. Members of Jordanian committees at the talks also attended the banquet. Other guests included the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and his majesty's advisers.

Jordan's chief negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah expressed his team's appreciation of the king's gesture. Al-Tarawinah later told reporters that Jordan stands on the threshold of a new era in its history and that peace is the basis for any efforts to serve the next generations.

Minister Reportedly Refuses To Sign Treaty

JN2111163794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned Dr. Muhammad al-Dhunaybat, minister of state for administrative development, refused, and still refuses, to sign the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Reliable sources disclosed this, although the government is hiding it, considering it a secret that should not be revealed until the minister is either convinced to sign it or he is dismissed in the next reshuffle.

Reliable sources told AL-MAJD that Minister al-Dhunaybat, who is close to the Islamic trend, is still steadfast in the face of intensive pressure from the prime minister and his colleague ministers to force him to change his position, out of fear that this may lead to the dismissing of the government.

These sources added that al-Dhunaybat adheres to his views rejecting signing a treaty because the Council of Ministers did not have enough time to study it, in addition to the fact that he was not consulted.

Observers believe a government reshuffle or change is a only matter of time due to the escalating ministerial crisis caused by al-Dhunaybat's refusal to sign the treaty. This crisis has led to sharp exchanges between some ministers and al-Dhunaybat that almost came to blows.

However, reliable sources said three tasks are still on the government agenda that should be realized before it goes. The first task is passing draft laws amending current laws to cope with the peace process. The second task is to pass a new elections law that is acceptable to parliament. The third task is to pass a law on the government budget for 1995.

House Urges Palestinians To Resort to Dialogue

JN2011205394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The House of Representatives held a meeting this afternoon under Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur. Acting Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi and the ministers attended.

The House discussed topics listed on its agenda, as well as several issues. The House then issued a call in which it regretted the Gaza incidents and appealed to the Palestinians to resort to dialogue instead of violence. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns 'Gaza Carnage'

JN2111144194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Jordan has condemned the "Gaza carnage" and called on the Palestinian Authority to shoulder its responsibility by punishing the criminals and providing security to the people.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Muslim Brotherhood called on all the honest and honorable sons of the nation to shoulder their responsibilities by curbing the forces of suppression and terrorism and acting expeditiously to prevent the Palestinian Authority from implementing its plan of liquidating the people and their cause.

The Brotherhood has also called on the Islamic nation to "stand by and lend support to the mujahid forces in Palestine in order to liberate land, man, and holy places." It also called on "the mujahid Palestinian people to unite, cooperate, and support each other to prevent the enemy and its ploys from exploiting the situation." It also urged them "not to rally behind those who seek to dissuade the people from playing their real role in resisting the Israeli occupier."

The Brotherhood also called on the honorable among the Palestinian police to disobey the orders to kill their brethren, and to reject the plot being hatched to sow sedition among the sons of the one people—a plot the Zionist enemy seeks to fuel.

IAF Urges France To Lift Ban on Headscarves

JN2211085094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc in Parliament on Monday [21

November] called on the French government to lift what it said were restrictions imposed on the religious freedoms of Muslims living in France.

The call came amid the reaffirmations by a French minister of a ban on Muslim girls wearing headscarves in French government schools.

The IAF made its appeal to the French government during a meeting that a delegation representing the 16-strong IAF bloc in the Lower House of Parliament had with the French ambassador to Jordan, Bernard Bajolet, an IAF statement said.

The statement quoted the delegation as telling Ambassador Bajolet that "we are surprised that France, which is proud of its revolution and culture, is restricting basic human freedoms...including the freedom to exercise religious rights."

"Restraining our brothers and sisters in France from exercising their religious freedoms, including the freedom to choose their dress...will not help contribute to developing the traditionally good relations between your republic and Arab and Muslim countries," the statement quoted the delegation as telling the ambassador.

"Education is a right of every individual regardless of dress," it quoted deputies Hamzah Mansur and Muhammad 'Uwaydah as saying during the meeting. It was a reference to the expulsion of Muslim girls from French government schools for defying the ban on headscarves.

A spokesman for the French embassy confirmed the meeting and said the deputies delivered to Mr. Bajolet a letter addressed to President Francois Mitterrand.

The spokesman quoted Mr. Bajolet as telling the IAF deputies that France respected the freedom to exercise religious practices and hoped that the rest of the world would extend such respect in the same way.

The IAF was the latest Islamist group to protest the French ban on the Islamic headdress, which also came amid a French government crackdown on military groups, including Algerian Muslim fundamentalist groups.

Iranian women have staged several demonstrations in front of the French embassy in Tehran denouncing the ban on headscarves, and Iranian religious leaders have issued implicit warning that French-Iranian relations stood to deteriorate further if the Paris government insisted on its stand.

On Sunday, French Education Minister Francois Bayrou defended the ban on Muslim girls wearing headscarves in state-run schools, saying the government had to stop the growth of Islamic fundamentalist in France.

About 30 girls have been expelled from schools for refusing to abide by the ban on headscarves. The ban is seen by Muslim groups as a denial of their right to wear their traditional Islamic dress.

Mr. Bayrou banned the headscarves in September, describing them as "ostentatious religious symbols."

"When you are in government...you try to look into the future to see what the weeds are, those whose growth will threaten French society and a certain vision of men and women in the next century," Mr. Bayrou was quoted as saying in a television interview on Sunday.

"When you see them...you have a choice only between two things: between acting and doing nothing," Reuters quoted the minister as saying.

According to Mr. Bayrou, the number of girls wearing headscarves in school had plunged to about 600 from 2,000 in September.

Al-Hirawi: Beirut, Damascus on 'Parallel' Courses

NC2111191694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Independence Day in Beirut on 21 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear Lebanese, we are going through a stage that teems more with questions than answers. We are proceeding with our march to build the state institutions and the role of the homeland. Everything around us is either in a state of turbulence or change. We are working under circumstances the elements and directions of which we alone are not capable of controlling. However, we are capable of rejecting everything that damages our rights, dignity, and values.

Our land cannot remain occupied and our villages cannot continue to be targets of aggression to shed innocent blood. Our sons are being subjected to indiscriminate and humiliating practices in Israeli prisons and detention camps. We confirm our commitment to the peace process and our concerted effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on the land-for-peace formula.

Implementing Resolution 425 is the starting point. Here, we express our gratitude and thanks to the security forces of the United Nations for the sacrifices they are exerting to help us maintain our sovereignty wherever it spreads. We have repeatedly said that Syria and we will proceed hand in hand to protect Arab dignity as we protect our own rights. Neither Lebanon nor Syria, who criticized the unilateral action taken by some brothers and their deviation from the spirit of our participation in Madrid as a group, will do anything that they have criticized others for.

The Lebanese and Syrian courses are two parallel courses and Lebanon shall be the last country to sign the peace treaty.

Dear Lebanese, we have liberated the national choice from wrong wagers. Stop these quarrels and take action. Through action, the country will assume its earlier status of paradise of the East. The achievements we have realized so far call on us to proceed confidently toward a new age of democracy, freedom, and growth. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Rules Out Peace Accord With Israel

LD2211101294 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Lebanese ambassador to Iran Munir Talshuq said that no question arises for the peace agreement with Israel as Lebanon is still bleeding and its southern part is still under the occupation of the alien forces.

Speaking to the English-language 'TEHRAN TIMES', published Tuesday, he underlined, "we cannot give any concession to Israel either for south Lebanon or the water sharing process."

"We want nothing from Israel except the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 which was passed by the world body unanimously", the daily quoted him as saying.

Israel wants Lebanon to face crisis after crisis, for it is in its interest, he said adding that Israel had a plan to be an economic power in the region. "The situation in Lebanon is rapidly changing and solidarity between the people and the government can be easily observed", Talshuq stressed.

We are trying to increase our trade, economic and technical relations with other countries including the Islamic Republic, he announced adding that, "the investors of my country are ready to join hands with Iranians in light industry."

The Iranians and Lebanese have closer religious, cultural and social connections which provide a favorable opportunity for closer cooperation between Beirut and Tehran, underlined the ambassador.

"Iran could be the gateway to Central Asia for Lebanon: Beirut could serve as a gateway to West Africa for Iran", he told the paper.

"We have planned the Beirut port as a free trade zone, Iranians have a good chance in joining hands with the Lebanese in utilizing the geographic situation of that country which is a crossroads linking east to west," he concluded.

Junblatt: 'Peace of Oslo Is Finished'

BR2111113094 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 20 Nov 94 p9

[FBIS Translated Text] Lecce—"I believe that what is known as the peace of Oslo is finished. 'Arafat is a dead man, finished; if I were in his place I would commit suicide or go away." That is the opinion of Druze leader Walid Junblatt, Lebanon's minister for refugees and president of the Progressive Socialist Party. Junblatt was speaking in Lecce, commenting on the incidents in Gaza after visiting Martignano, near Lecce, to inaugurate a school named after his father Kamal. Martignano is a sister city with Kfar Matta [as published], a village in Lebanon which this municipality in Italy's Salento region as well as volunteers from the CTM [expansion unknown] are helping to rebuild.

Junblatt also told reporters that "the accord between Clinton, 'Arafat, and Rabin no longer exists," and that "what are needed are accords giving the Palestinians sovereignty and Jerusalem as their capital." According to Junblatt, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] "represents the expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of the situation which emerged from the Oslo accords. 'Arafat is merely policing this situation and the Palestinian people do not want another policeman."

Radio Cites Clinton on U.S. Forces for Golan

JN2211083594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday pledged to continue efforts for the Middle East peace process.

Following his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Clinton characterized the Middle East peace process as particularly successful.

President Clinton said he is open to the idea of U.S. participation in a peacekeeping force on the Golan Heights. He said no agreement has been reached yet between Israel and Syria on the participation of U.S. troops in any peacekeeping force on the Golan Heights. Clinton said, however, that if his country was asked to participate in a peacekeeping force, he would then refer the idea to Congress.

Referring to U.S. Senator Jesse Helms' opposition to participation in such a force, President Clinton said he does not believe that anyone should make comments or do anything in this regard, because it could undermine the ability of the concerned parties to make peace. He said he believes this should be the position of all Americans.

President Clinton said the United States will continue to extend U.S. military aid to Israel, including a short-range missile program and security aid, which includes the Arrow missile program, for the next few years. Clinton said he believes the United States should continue to support Israel's security because this, according to him, is a precondition for Israel to be able to make peace in the Middle East.

'Media Source' Replies to Helms' Remarks

JN2111183794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to Jesse Helms' accusations that Syria does not want peace with Israel, but only wants the Golan and aid from the U.S. Treasury, an informed media source said that through President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has announced that peace is a strategic option for it, and that President Clinton, who met with President al-Asad more than once, as well as Secretary of State Christopher, spoke about President Hafiz al-Asad's credibility and serious efforts to achieve peace.

The sources added: We had hoped that the ecstasy of victory would not make Mr. Helms forget that Israel, which is occupying Arab land, is the one living out of the Americans' pockets, that Syria has not received any U.S. aid for many years, and that peace for it is much more exalted than the aid issue.

The sources said: If Mr. Helms assumes the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate, he will be forced to closely study and examine the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Argentine President Carlos Menem, Delegation Visit

Welcomed by al-Asad

JN2111141494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived in Damascus on a state visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at 1115 today. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led the welcoming party at Damasucs International Airport. [passage omitted]

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Carlos Menem held a session at Tishrin Palace attended on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar, and Justice Minister Husayn Hassun. The delegation accompanying Mr. Menem attended for the Argentine side.

Further on Arrival

PY2111200294 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1207 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by unidentified special correspondents in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Syria, 21 Nov (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem arrived in Damascus on 21 November on a three-day state visit to Syria. He was received by his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, at the airport.

Menem arrived at Damascus International Airport at 1120. He had no sooner disembarked from the Tango-1 presidential plane than he was greeted by Al-Asad.

Following the traditional salute of 21 guns, Menem and Al-Asad listened, from a balcony, to their respective national anthems played by a military band.

They subsequently reviewed troops—Menem stopped to salute the Syrian flag—and then departed for downtown Damascus accompanied by their respective entourages.

Menem's cavalcade was made up of a total of 30 cars, in addition to 16 motorcyclists, trucks with communications equipment, and an ambulance.

There was tight security for Menem's arrival and because of the presence of al-Asad at the airport. Hundreds of police personnel, both in uniform and in civilian clothes, were deployed there.

According to one of the officers in charge of security, "this kind of operation is standard procedure when a head of state or distinguished visitor comes to this country," including the journey of both presidents to the capital city.

Al-Asad accompanied Menem, his daughter Zulema, and a small retinue to the "Tishrin" guest palace, where they will stay while in Damascus.

After having held a private meeting with Menem, al-Asad took his leave of the Argentine president.

At 1320, Menem went to Najha to lay a wreath at a memorial in honor of the martyrs of the homeland.

The war memorial in honor of those fallen in contemporary wars is located near one of the most famous mosques in Damascus, which stands out for its magnificent golden dome.

Menem on Mideast 'Just Peace'

PY2111232694 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1716 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by special correspondents Luis San Martin and Ricardo Sarmiento]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Syria, 21 Nov (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem pleaded today for a just peace in the Middle East that would contemplate the return to the Arab Republic of Syria of the territories occupied by Israel.

"Peace in exchange for land," said the Argentine head of state, in expressing his views on how peace negotiations between Syria and Israel should be undertaken within the framework of UN Resolution 242.

Menem made these remarks in the town of Najha, after laying a wreath at the monument to the country's martyrs, where a torch burns constantly in honor of the Syrians who fell in the last regional wars, and after writing a touching message in the Honorable Visitor's Book.

At no time did Menem mention the State of Israel, but admitted that he carried a message from Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that he would deliver to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their first formal meeting.

The Argentine head of state preferred not to disclose the contents of the message until "I personally deliver it to the president, as it would be careless to deliver it to the journalists first."

In Jerusalem, Peres said that the Argentine president is a suitable person to mediate in a peace process between Israel and Syria.

Discussing a meeting scheduled in Damascus between Menem and al-Asad, the Israeli foreign minister told Israeli journalists: "He is a man who can carry messages between Syria and Israel."

During his meeting with journalists in the town of Najha, Menem also explained that he wants "a just peace that will take into account UN Resolution 242, that is, returning the Republic of Syria's occupied land."

Menem said: "You must understand that the mission accomplished by President Clinton and other U.S. officials has not been an easy one. It is necessary to have some patience and calmness to deal with these issues."

This was Menem's response when asked if any progress had been made in achieving peace in the Middle East, following the recent U.S. President's tour of six countries in this region, including Syria and Israel.

Menem added: "I believe major countries like the United States, some European nations and, of course, Argentina are involved in the negotiations that have just begun."

Menem added that these nations "are interested in peace, but in a just peace."

Asked if there was any similarity between Syria's claims over the Golan Heights and Argentina's claims to regain sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, the president said they are two different cases.

Menem noted: "Here the sides involved in the conflict are virtually talking directly between them, while for the time being the Argentine claims over the Malvinas Islands are being raised at the level of international forums."

Menem also indicated that these claims are being raised "by all of us politicians, regardless of our political views, asking that our sovereignty over the Malvinas [Falkland] Islands be returned to us."

During his meeting with the journalists, Menem expressed his excitement over visiting his parents' homeland, "because many civilizations originated in this land and journeyed through it, civilizations that spread to the world and raised work and peace proposals in many regions of our planet."

Menem stressed that he merely discussed "broad issues" during his first informal meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, whom he described as "a very affectionate man."

Menem indicated that during his meeting with his counterpart al- Asad "we talked about the Syrian community in Argentina." With regard to Argentine citizens of Syrian or Arab origin, Menem noted that "we must not forget that they are the third largest community" in our country.

Menem also noted that they had discussed issues involving "our family life, especially mine."

The Argentine president said: "My wife and [my daughter] Zulemita have already spent a few days here, and they were treated with superb courtesy."

As Hafiz al-Asad had complained about the shortness of the visit, Menem indicated: "On another occasion I will stay a few more days to tour part of the territory of Syria."

Menem arrived at 1120 local time (0620 Argentine time) at the Damascus International Airport. Upon disembarking from the Tango-01 plane, he was met by al-Asad, thus beginning an official three-day visit to Syria.

Menem's arrival and the Syrian president's presence at the international airport were guarded by a strong security operation, involving hundreds of security forces wearing uniforms as well as plainclothesmen.

The operation, which according to a commanding officer "is normal in this country for the arrival of an illustrious visitor," included the route used by the two presidents to reach downtown Damascus after the welcoming ceremony.

Parliamentarians, Foreign Ministers Meet

JN2111201194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1800 today, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received an Argentine parliamentary delegation visiting Syria with President Carlos Menem. The Argentine parliamentary team is led by Senate Member Juan Carlos Romero. The session was also attended by Mr. Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foriegn Affairs Committee. The sides discussed bilateral parliamentary ties and looked into ways to further them in the mutual Syrian and Argentinian interest. They also discussed the role of Arab expatriates in Argentina in bolstering historical and cultural ties with the motherland. They also talked about the peace process and regional developments.

Meanwhile, a round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry between the Syrian and Argentinian sides led by Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dr. Guido Di Tella, Argentina's minister of foreign relations and worship. [passage omitted]

They discussed world developments and the state of the peace process and explored ways to further ties between Syria and Argentina.

Al-Asad Gives Banquet Speech

JN2211072094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Nov 94

["Text" of speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at a dinner banquet held in honor of visiting Argentine President Carlos Menem in Damascus on 21 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Carlos Menem, members of the Argentine delegation, gentlemen:

Mr. President: I am pleased to warmly welcome you and your accompanying delegation to Damascus as you have just started a visit to Syria, the country of your parents, forefathers, and family. Our people are also pleased to warmly welcome you and your delegation on your first visit to Syria since assuming the post of president.

We welcome you warmly, as representatives of the Argentine people, with whom we have fraternal and cordial relations. When we talk about relations between Syria and Argentina, the first thing that comes to mind is the human bond represented in the brother and son Arab expatriates in general, and those who come from Syrian descent in particular. We know for sure, through their visits to their motherland and their contacts with their families, that their longing for the homeland and the playground of their childhood and adolescence and their parents and relatives still fills their hearts, despite the long distance and, sometimes, long separations.

We in Syria care a great deal about the expatriates and are very eager to maintain contacts between them and the motherland. There are commissions at the state and party commands that take care of these expatriates and encourage them to preserve the language of their parents and forefathers.

We consider our brother and son expatriates in Argentina—just as other expatriates in other countries—as a backup for us and bond that brings us closer to other communities. We wish them continued success in their life. We take pride in their success, and we deem their loyalty to the countries in which they stay evidence of the good manners they inherited from their country of origin.

Mr. President: Your visit is a good opportunity to enhance relations between Syria and Argentina. We are hopeful that the visit will yield good results in the interest of our common objectives.

Syria, which you are currently visiting, has made large strides in development and progress. Our energetic people are doing their best to build their country. Our efforts to achieve economic and social development, in the best way possible, go hand in hand with our struggle to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions.

Just and comprehensive peace is our strategic option. The peace process has not yet achieved the desired results due to the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of this process, as well as Israel's evasion of commitment to the foundations on which the peace process was launched.

Mr. President: I wish you and your delegation a pleasant stay in Syria and a good meeting with your kin and relatives, who will be happy to meet you and who will welcome you warmly. I hope that your visit and meeting with the sons of our people will leave you with good memories when you return to Argentina.

Concluding, I ask the attendees to join me in greeting President Carlos Menem. I wish him good health and happiness and the Argentine people steady progress.

Menem, al-Asad Hold Closed Session

JN2211062294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Argentine President Carlos Menem held a closed session at 1800 yesterday in the People's Palace. During the session, the two presidents resumed their discussion of bilateral issues, regional and international issues, and the Middle East peace process.

President Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and make the peace process achieve its objectives.

President Menem expressed appreciation of Syria's positions, saying: Argentina thinks the success of the Middle East peace process requires the implementation of UN resolutions and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories in accordance with the land-for-peace principle.

The two presidents expressed their desire to develop bilateral relations in all fields. [passage omitted]

Presidents Resume Talks

JN2211132094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Argentine President Carlos Menem resumed talks in the People's Palace at 1115 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. It was also attended on the Argentine side by Dr. Guido Di Tella, minister of foreign relations and worship.

Talas Addresses Cadets; Bashshar al-Asad Joins Corps

JN1711212994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and on the occasion of our Armed Forces' celebration of the 24th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, a new group of War College cadets graduated today. Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and deputy prime minister and defense minister, deputized for the president. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Talas delivered a speech on the occasion. He began by conveying President al-Asad's greetings and best wishes of success to the graduates in performing their national and pan-Arab tasks. He said: Your graduation coincides with the cherished occasion of the glorious Corrective Movement, whose pillars were laid by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of this nation and detonator of its energies who corrected the march toward construction and renovation with determination and resolve. He has thus shaped the future of his people and shouldered the burdens of pan-Arab responsibility. Due to his brave and noble stands, Syria became a lighthouse for all free people in the world and a source of influential decision in the region.

The representative of the commander in chief then spoke about the peace process in the region, noting the obstacles Israel is placing along the path of implementing the international legitimacy resolutions by claiming that Syria's concept of peace is not clear, by fabricating situations and perpetrating more crimes against our kinsfolk in the West Bank, by calling for upgrading the level of negotiations or holding them in secret, and by other impossible demands. He added: The entire world is now aware of Israel's hostile attitude and falsehood of its claims. The historic Damascus summit between leader al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton reaffirmed the international unanimity with the soundness of Syria's stands and its effective role in making just and comprehensive peace—peace that returns rights to their owners. This was emphasized by leader al-Asad when he said: Therefore, today we look forward to transferring the region form the state of war to the state of peace—peace which returns rights to their rightful owners, ends occupation, spares the blood of the innocent, and safeguards human dignity.

Lt. Gen. Talas stressed that Syria under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad will not accept anything less than a comprehensive and just peace and the principle of full withdrawal for full peace.

He then addressed the graduates saying: Young graduates, by studying at this large scientific and military institution, you have learned the principles of military science and acquired several combat skills and expertise and militant and ideological values which will help you in your practical life within our Armed Forces. I urge you to pursue your education in order to promote your military know-how and to keep up with the technologies of the age and its new military inventions in order to be able to carry out the task that will be entrusted to you. [passage omitted]

On this occasion and on behalf of our Armed Forces I welcome Captain Dr. Bashshar al-Asad, who joined the Armor Corps by graduating today as a commanding officer in this corps after his success in the course for the post of tank battalion commander. Welcome to the comrade in arms as a distinguished brother and son of a noble brother [Hafiz al-Asad]. [passage omitted]

Paper Links Rabin's Remarks in U.S. With Elections

JN2111165494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: During his current Washington visit, Yitzhaq Rabin is underscoring U.S. aid to Israel, which totals $3 billion per year, half of which is received as grants.

The paper notes the statements made by Rabin and other Israeli Government officials in this regard. They have sought to link aid to the peace process and peace efforts. This clearly shows that Israeli officials are engaged in flagrant blackmail at this critical point in time, the paper argues.

AL-BA'TH believes that this Israeli campaign is linked to the outcome of the Damascus summit held between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, which underscored the U.S. commitment to a just and comprehensive peace predicated on the relevant international resolutions, as well as fair security arrangements. The outcome of this summit, like the outcome of the Geneva summit, disappointed Israel. That is why it is seeking to circumvent it.

AL-BA'TH adds: Rabin has placed great emphasis on U.S. aid to Israel, which he views as vital for the peace process. This Israeli campaign is linked to the outcome of the U.S. elections, which produced a Republican majority among policymakers in the United States. As a matter of fact, the outcome of these elections has prompted senior Republican Party leaders to emphasize that U.S. aid to Israel will continue, and that it will not suffer as a result of the new Republican victory. This has encouraged Rabin to highlight the issue.

The paper goes on to say: Rabin is seeking to obtain the greatest possible financial, military, and political support from the Americans, contending that he is willing to make concessions to promote the peace process. This is blackmail.

The paper wonders about the type of aid Rabin is requesting, and about the rationale behind it, posing the following question: Don't Rabin's statements in this regard reflect the superiority sought by Israel so that it may be the dominant power in the region?

The paper concludes by saying: It goes without saying that this will not promote the cause of peace.

Commentary Views 'Implications' of Gaza Incidents

JN2111155694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Gaza and the occupied Arab territory incidents confirm that unilateral and truncated agreements will not make peace, the glittering ceremonies and glaring publicity attending them notwithstanding. Unless it brings security, stability, and tranquility for all parties and provides for the restitution of Arab rights and land, peace will be remain a misnomer. Neither will peace endure unless it meets national aspirations and unless those affected by it are prepared to uphold and defend it.

We will not go into the Gaza incidents or what is going on in the West bank; these have been heard and seen by the whole world. We will just consider their implications.

When the White House lawn witnessed the grand ceremony that crowned the Oslo accord between Israel and the PLO, many nations and media, as well as Israel, painted the event as if it were of historic importance. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin even went so far as to urge the Arabs to open their borders to all things Israeli—goods and persons—arguing that peace had come to the region. We saw the same picture following the signing of the Wadi al-'Arabah accord. However, developments since, particularly in the past few weeks, show these agreements to have been made in Israel and that they advanced neither Palestinian nor Arab interests. Had these agreements been what they were made out to be, they would not have come up against political and popular resistance that degenerated into violence. Syria's position on the entire peace process is thus vindicated. Syria has consistently advocated a comprehensive settlement and a fulfillment of UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. Syria's argument has always been that any peace deal that fails to satisfy national aspirations is bound to unravel and come to naught. For all Syria's consistency and constancy on the need to build a firm and solid peace, Israel still talks about difficulties on the Syrian track and Syrian intransigence.

Israel is pursuing the kind of peace agreements that advance only its goals and ambitions; it has found partners to these agreements, and both are now reaping their bitter fruits.

Peace and what we have now are poles apart. Syria, which joined the peace process as an expression of its belief in a just and universal peace and an interest in ending the state of war and devastation that have plagued the region for close to half a century, continues to be dedicated to and is prepared to enter into real peace. Syria is also capable of defending and sustaining real peace. If Israel has an interest in such peace, the road there is smooth. If, on the other hand, it is still bent on striking separate deals, Israel had best look long and hard at what is taking place, and it will find that Syria's idea of peace, rather than a settlement that keeps the area volatile, is the one that stands any chance.

Afghanistan

Shura-e Nezar Coalition Commander Killed

LD2111180694 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A well-known coalition commander was killed some days ago.

A Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] source reported to the Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that Jomagol Panjsheri, a famous commander of the Shura-e Nezar, who was also deputy commander of [name indistinct] unit, was killed some time ago, together with his close colleagues.

The report adds that this commander was killed by the forces of Wahdat-e Eslami during the fighting that broke out in the vicinity of Kabul University.

The loss of Jomagol Panjsheri has adversely affected morale among the men attached to the Shura-e Nezar. The men of Shura-e Nezar, attached to Jomagol Panjsheri's unit, are trying to flee following the death of their commander.

Bangladesh

Security of UN Troops in Bihac Urged

BK2111155794 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Nov 21 (AFP)—Bangladesh expressed concern Monday [21 November] about the fate of its 1,200 troops serving in Bihac under the United Nations and urged the UN to ensure their security, a news agency reported here.

Senior Bangladeshi foreign ministry officials held meetings with envoys of member countries of the United Nations Secuity Council on the situation of troops in Bihac, now under Bosnian-Serb attack, the UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH (UNB) said.

"Since the Bangladeshi troops are currently under the UN command, it is absolutely essential to ensure their security and resume supplies to them urgently," UNB quoted Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mufleh R. Osmany as telling the ambassadors.

A foreign ministry spokesman said Bangladeshi troops were "safe and their morale is high."

UNB added that Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman was expected to chair a meeting Tuesday of a high-level committee to review the situation in Bihac.

Iran

Political Experts on NATO Air Strikes on Udbina

LD2211101394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 22 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] NATO fighter planes bombed the Udbina airbase of the Croatian Serbs yesterday. This action opens a new phase in the current crisis of Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, the action itself was not an unprecedented event in the history of NATO's limited military operations in this area of the Balkan region. [passage omitted]

In view of the past experience gained from NATO air attacks on Serb positions, some political experts believe that full implementation of Security Council Resolution 958 and one or two limited attacks on the Serb positions would not be sufficient to stop the Serbs' continuous aggression. The only difference between this resolution and the earlier resolutions passed by the Security Council is that it has increased the NATO sphere of operations from Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Croatian territory.

Political experts believe that a joint NATO-UN action is more of a diplomatic maneuver and should, therefore, not be considered as a threat to the Serb military men or a measure of support for the suffering people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The objective of this very low-level and limited operation was to satisfying the ever-increasing expectations of world public opinion.

There is no doubt that suspension or implementation of the Security Council resolutions in Bosnia depends on political collusion among the powerful permanent members of the Security Council. Basically one should analyze this issue within the framework of the major powers' cooperation. In any event, it is obvious that peace will not be established in Bosnia-Herzegovina unless the oppressed people of Bosnia are given the right to defend themselves against the military aggression of the Serbs. This is a right enjoyed by all other European nations.

New 'Stop and Search' Operation Launched

LD2011122594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will implement a computerized operation codenamed Fajr [Dawn] that will help its crime investigation and identification of criminals.

The Law Enforcement Force commander, who was interviewed by reporters today, said: During the implementation of the plan, 53 groups will begin stop and search operations. These groups have vehicles equipped with mobile computers and they will be stationed at entrances to large cities all over the country. If necessary, these groups will also carry out their stop and search operations inside large cities. They use their computers to stop and search suspicious persons, vehicles, or motorcycles.

Brigadier General Reza Seifollahi also referred to the confiscated materials by the Law Enforcement Force during the last eight months, and said their total value amount to 80 billion rials. He added: Various kinds of narcotics that were confiscated during the same period amount to 96 tonnes.

The Law Enforcement Force commander referred to plans to combat foreign currency dealers and said: During the past month, the Law Enforcement Force has confiscated smuggled foreign currencies that amount to more than $2 million, 59 million in various kinds of pounds, and 30 million units of other currencies. Also eight gangs involved in foreign currency sabotage, 12 gangs involved in smuggling medicine, and 22 gangs involved in import of smuggled goods have been destroyed.

Ayatollah Cites 'Flaws' of Second Five-Year Plan

LD2211101494 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22 IRNA—A leading member of the Guardian Council said that the draft of the second five-year plan has been sent back to the Majles for minor alterations.

The daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' quoted Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati as saying that the council has reviewed and discussed the draft of the plan and found certain defects and decided to send it back to the Majles to remove the flaws.

Ayatollah Jannati told the paper that the draft of the plan would be discussed at the Majles Commission for Plan and Budget Tuesday. "The commission will remove the flaws and send it back to the Majles where it will be discussed in an open session for approval and then sent back to the council for final consent." Ayatollah Jannati stressed, "The flaw in the draft was not very important and was concerned with the proposed administrative supreme council. It was suggested that the president assumes that responsibility."

Describing the draft of the plan as the best, he noted, "If the letter of the plan was translated into reality, it would be in the greatest interest of the nation." The Majles passed the draft on November 15 and sent it for approval to the Guardian Council which was to give its final verdict in 10 days.

Referring to the recent statement of Vice-President Ata-'ollah Mohajerani on the amendment of the constitution, the paper quoted Ayatollah Jannati as saying, "I don't see any sound basis for a change in the constitution." He added that an amendment to the constitution would undermine the law.

"The opinion of the people and the Assembly of Experts is necessary for this (amendment)," Ayatollah Jannati told the paper.

Cabinet Discusses Next Year's Budget

LD2011182094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The examination of the country's budget bill for the year 1374 [beginning 21 March 1995] began at today's cabinet session. During the session, chaired by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, two notes were approved: regulations relating to the level of the treasury's revolving fund and the way in which the budget for state companies is set, and regulations relating to tax payments and relevant banking facilities.

Also during the session, the minister of finance and economic affairs reported that the level of non-oil exports showed a 20 percent growth, reaching the sum of 2.1 billion dollars during the first six months of this year [beginning 21 March 1994]. During the same period, the level of the country's imports was 5.2 billion dollars.

Majles Speaker Says National Debt $33 Billion

LD2111094294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is visiting Arak, answered questions from the town's university students at a question-and-answer session last night. Our colleague reports from the Central News Unit:

[Correspondent] During a question-and-answer session with university students in Arak, the Majles speaker announced: The Majles, the government and the system have no plans to privatize state universities, and that the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution would not allow such a thing. [passage omitted]

In response to a question about the level of Iran's debt, Nateq-Nuri said: Currently our country owes $33 billion in relation to uncompleted deals and debts that are not yet due for repayment. According to a measure approved by the Majles, the government is dutybound to reduce this to $25 billion by the end of the second development plan.

Country Emerging as 'Major Petrochemical Producer'

LD2211103894 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—President of the National Iranian Petrochemical Company (NIPC) Ahmad Rahgozar today reviews the global prospects for the petrochemical industry with a host of experts at the FINANCIAL TIMES conference in London, reports 'IRAN NEWS' Tuesday [22 November].

The daily said that Rahgozar will talk to delegates of Iran's pioneering history in the industry, outlining the path of its growth and the extent of its influence on the nation's economy. In his speech released to the paper, the NIPC president expanded on Iran's potential emergence as a major petrochemical producer in the Middle East with the advent of the second five-year development plan.

He was quoted as saying that with the implementation of envisaged projects by the year 2000, NIPC would become a major producer in the region. Iran's share in the Middle East's total production of polyolefins, aromatics, methanol and ammonia will double from 8.5 to 16.8 percent, he added.

"Likewise, the Middle East's share in world petrochemical production, including methanol, ammonia, olefins, polyolefins and aromatics, would increase substantially from 4.3 percent in 1993 to 6.2 percent by the year 2000," he stressed. With a population of 60 million, Iran has a well-developed domestic market for petrochemical products, he said adding that, the capacity of downstream process industries of major plastics, synthetic rubbers and fibers will exceed one million tons. There are also substantial capacities in detergents, paints, adhesives and other downstream industries utilizing petrochemicals, the paper quoted him as saying.

"The emergence of newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union with over 300 million population has opened up new avenues and promising opportunities for the Iranian petrochemical industry," he said, adding that there is already substantial export of plastic products from Iran to the neighboring republics. The infrastructure for large industrial projects is still somewhat inadequate in some parts our country, although these are much better developed in the Persian Gulf region where most of our petrochemical industry is located," Rahgozar underlined.

"Establishing a new free zone for the petrochemical industry to help attract foreign capital is under consideration", the daily quoted him as saying.

Rahgozar emphasized that NIPC was committed to expanding the role of the private sector in petrochemicals: "As an additional incentive for private and foreign investors, feedstock for new projects will be offered at a higher discount rate of 30 percent off the Persian Gulf f.o.b. price for an initial period of five years. Thus, we have cheap feedstock and fuel, a 360 million population market and available infrastructure."

Policy on 1,000 Supermarkets Chainstores Approved

LD2011214194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Market Control Headquarters has approved the policy of setting up 1,000 supermarket chainstores throughout the country to secure essential commodities and eliminate unnecessary middlemen. This policy was also approved by this afternoon's Cabinet meeting.

These stores will benefit from modern equipment and will be set up in accordance with the needs and population size of every city, through the sale of shares to the public and the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce, the city municipalities, and banks. The stores will also benefit from special state funds. The interest on the shares of these stores will be regulated by the country's banking system.

During the sixth session of the Market Control Headquarters today—chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by his special representatives—it was decided that these stores should cooperate in offering manufactured and imported goods at a reasonable price.

The public in general, corporate persons, public and private companies, and city municipalities nationwide can participate in implementing this project. Procedure regarding the sale of shares, extension of the project, and people's participation will be announced at a later stage. The stores would be selling a variety of goods including foodstuff, clothes, household goods, and other consumer goods.

In continuation of today's session, it was decided that the process of pricing medicine, dried milk, and disposable medical equipment, would be carried out by the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization in coordination with the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Training. The Ministry of Justice should coordinate with the latter ministry on the formation of courts to assess violations concerning these items.

In order to prevent distruption of the implementation of the Market Control Plan and the campaign against profiteering, it was decided at the session that all the country's mass media and newspapers are dutybound to investigate the accuracy of any news concerning the violations and punishment of corporate and non- corporate persons, by contacting the spokesman of the Market Control Plan.

At this session, the new items which are included in the second stage of the Market Control Plan were discussed. It was decided that in view of the measure of importance of the aforementioned commodities in the life of a household, the Ministry of Commerce should take measures regarding their pricing and that voilators would be dealt with on the basis of the state penal code.

Today's session also heard reports by the Ministries of Commerce and Justice on the successes of the implementation of the Market Control Plan. It was decided that the Ministries of Commerce and Industries, in cooperation with each other, would take measures to provide those commodities that are in shortage in the markets through the authorized distribution network.

Mohajerani Discusses Next Presidency

95LA0044A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6 Nov 94 pp 30-32

[Interview with 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, first advisor to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran; date not given—first two paragraphs are AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, first advisor to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is regarded as the most open figure to the outside world. He is a child of the revolution. But as the revolution turned into a state, he tried to promote a dialogue between it and the West to safeguard the interests of the two sides and solve the pending problems.

He was 25 years old when he was elected deputy for the Shiraz district. He has represented this district in the Majles since that time. Four years ago, he wrote an article in ITTILA'AT newspaper on the need for direct dialogue between the United States and Iran. The article provoked demonstrations on the streets and at Tehran University, where he teaches. He received several letters of admonition from Ayatollah Khamene'i and other religious and political leaders. The letters contained one message—no dialogue with the United States.

AL-MAJALLAH met with Mohajerani in his office at the presidential headquarters in Tehran and conducted the following interview:

[AL-MAJALLAH] As an advisor to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what do you think the Iranian president will do when his term ends in 1997?

[Mohajerani] First, I think that the Constitution could be amended to allow an extension of the president's term. As you know, according to the Iranian Constitution, a president can only serve two consecutive terms. Therefore, I think that the Constitution could be amended. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani could also return to parliament and head...

[AL-MAJALLAH] Interrupting: The opposition, for example?

[Mohajerani] No. He might return as parliamentary representative and spokesman. He held this post for 10 years before, and was able to make vital decisions in Iran.

[AL-MAJALLAH] So, he will not leave political life?

[Mohajerani] I do not think so, because politics is in his blood.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Everyone inside and outside Iran is speaking about corruption in the Iranian establishment. What is the extent of this corruption, and who is responsible for it?

[Mohajerani] When we talk about corruption, we must be specific. Are we talking about political, economic, or some other corruption?

[AL-MAJALLAH] Let us begin with the political establishment?

[Mohajerani] You might find some individuals in local politics and some leaders, ministers, and directors general who are involved in corruption. They must be brought to trial and convicted. Sometimes we read in our press reports about such officials, and they are convicted. Corruption, in the sense that is being reported, is exaggerated.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Is corruption due to the strict political and social regime or financial difficulties?

[Mohajerani] I think it is due to both. We have encountered many economic problems since the war. At the same time, we do not have a multiparty system. We have lived through eight years of war. It is normal to have some of our problems after war.

[AL-MAJALLAH] People thought that the first and second five-year plans would improve their conditions, and they looked ahead with hope. They thought that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's regime would help them achieve a revival in several fields. The outcome, however, was not positive. Everybody in Iran is complaining. How will Iran solve its crisis? How will President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emerge from the bottleneck?

[Mohajerani] I can answer your question after the second five-year plan is completed. There are many plans. We have some problems now. Our economy depends on oil, the oil price, and the dollar rate.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The oil price is expected to drop in the coming years because of overproduction and the lifting of the embargo on Iraq. What is the solution?

[Mohajerani] There are internal economic decisions that must be implemented, including ending the subsidy on locally used oil. We are selling a liter of gasoline for five tumans. People in Baluchistan and Azerbaijan, for example, buy gasoline in large quantities and sell it to Turkey and Pakistan at high prices. The lifting of the subsidy will not be sudden. It will be made in five stages.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It is being said that your government will stop subsidizing bread, sugar, and some other basic commodities?

[Mohajerani] This is not true. The subsidy will not be terminated at present except on gasoline. We discussed the price of bread in parliament. A large number of deputies and ministers opposed ending the bread subsidy. Ayatollah Khamene'i has also opposed such measure.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Had the decision been left to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, do you think he would have ended the bread subsidy?

[Mohajerani] I do not think so.

[AL-MAJALLAH] If we were to go back several years and talk about the U.S.-Iranian relationship after the Irangate scandal, how would you describe this relationship? How do you see the future of these relations?

[Mohajerani] (Mohajerani laughed) I do not see any difference between the present and the future. Our leadership rejects any dialogue with the United States. The first step for any change is direct dialogue. This is still being strongly rejected.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Who rejects it?

[Mohajerani] The clear and known position during Imam Khomeyni's time was that there must be no dialogue with the United States. After Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khamene'i adopted the same position. Four years ago I wrote an article in the ITTILA'AT newspaper under the headline "Direct Dialogue with America," in which I explained my view about the need to begin a direct dialogue with the United States to solve our problems. I wrote the article following a speech by President George Bush about the American hostages in Lebanon. In this article, I talked about the American and Iranian hostages and said that dialogue will solve our financial and military problems and the American hostage problem. But Khamene'i rejected my proposal and later sent me a letter in which he explained the reasons for this rejection.

[AL-MAJALLAH] This is on the surface. Aren't talks taking place under the table?

[Mohajerani] No.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How was the hostage issue resolved then?

[Mohajerani] No direct dialogue took place. The Swiss Embassy in Tehran and some figures and mediators who have relations with the United States intervened. The only time in which we talked directly with the United States was when McFarlane came to Iran and stayed at the Azadi Hotel.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Has the outcome of McFarlane's visit to Iran served as a lesson to any Iranian official trying to hold a dialogue with the United States?

[Mohajerani] Perhaps. Without the approval and blessing of Ayatollah Khamene'i, no one can hold a dialogue with the United States. Even if a number of officials agree but he objects, no dialogue will take place.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The political reality in the area might force Iran to review this position. The Palestinians have made peace with Israel, and the Syrians, who are your friends, are doing the same. Many changes are taking place in this area. When do you expect peace between Iran and Israel and between Iran and the United States? Will you continue to raise the slogan "death to America and Israel" forever, while Israel and America are growing bigger, stronger, and more prosperous?

[Mohajerani] All the states, or most of them in our area, think that they cannot rule without U.S. approval and some sort of peace with Israel. But there is one banner raised in the area against the United States and Israel. U.S. policy has changed in the past four years. The United States today imposes its decisions on the countries in the area, and we do not accept this. The opinion of Ayatollah Khamene'i, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and government members is that the United States cannot impose on us its decisions and the kind of relations that we should maintain with the other states in the area. Let us take, for example, the islands problem between us and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. We think that what is happening now is, without a doubt, an implementation of an American scenario.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why don't you meet with UAE officials to solve this problem?

[Mohajerani] We have invited them many times, but they have refused to come to Iran. They also rejected direct dialogue. They prefer to talk through the press, radio, and the media.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you think that the area is approaching another war?

[Mohajerani] Perhaps. One year before the Iraq-Kuwait war no one expected an event of this magnitude to take place. I think that the islands could be the fuse that will ignite a new war in the area. I think that some states in the region, particularly Saudi Arabia, can contribute to a solution of the crisis before it takes place.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are contacts taking place between you and the Saudi Government and some other Arab states to solve the islands' problem?

[Mohajerani] Yes. Contacts are taking place between us and Syria on this issue. Contacts are also taking place with some Saudi officials. But whenever an Islamic or Arab conference is held, they come out with surprise statements against Iran. This is not useful for solving the crisis.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When will an Iranian official talk to an Israeli official? Do you envision the possibility of achieving Iranian-Israeli peace?

[Mohajerani] I think that Israel has conspired against Iran several times. Israel needs an enemy, and Iran is a good one. Israel has a big army, and an army always needs an enemy to maintain its fitness. Tel Aviv plotted against us in London and Argentina, accusing us of terrorism. I state that Iran had nothing to do with the two explosions. I think that we will remain in a state of no peace and no war for a long time.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Any observer of the political reality in Iran notices the existence of duplicity in political decisionmaking and the way things are run in the country. This duplicity is between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Khamene'i. Who makes the final decision in Iran?

[Mohajerani] The principal decisions are made by Ayatollah Khamene'i.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why does Ayatollah Khamene'i overrule President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's decisions?

[Mohajerani] According to the Constitution, all the decisions of the Supreme Security Council in Iran must be approved by Ayatollah Khamene'i. Important political decisions must be discussed in this council. Ayatollah Khamene'i is the only one who can approve or disapprove the council's decisions.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Is there a contradiction between the decisions of Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani?

[Mohajerani] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani decides on issues pertaining to the economy and state affairs, but Ayatollah Khamene'i has the last word.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How can Iran repay its debts ($28 billion) in the future?

[Mohajerani] We have reached an agreement with Japan and Germany to reschedule our debts according to a special two-year program during which we will repay the debts. We have problems regarding the debts and the economic situation. But we will try to repay the debts in whatever way we can.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Problems occurred in Mashhad and Zahedan a few months ago. Some people think that racial incidents might extend to other Iranian provinces between the Baluchis, Turks, and Kurds. What is your government's plan to solve this problem?

[Mohajerani] There was a mosque for the Sunni in Mashhad. The municipality decided to demolish it because it obstructed a plan to build a modern highway. (The same thing happened in Tehran.) The Sunni objected to the demolition of the mosque, and demonstrations took place. This is despite the fact that several other Sunni mosques exist in Mashhad. Mojahedin-e Khalq exploited the problems between the Sunni and the Shiites to stir up trouble in Iran. This was the background to what happened in the Imam Reza mosque. Every Sunni whose mosque is attacked thinks that the attacker is a Shiite, and the opposite is true. The problems in Mashhad and Zahedan were exploited by Mojahedin-e Khalq.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this mean that Mojahedin-e Khalq are still strong inside Iran?

[Mohajerani] No. Anyone can come into Iran across the border from Iraq or any other state and place a bomb in Mashhad or at Imam Khomeyni's tomb.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the racial problems?

[Mohajerani] We have problems in some areas, particularly in Kordestan, but they are not important.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You have reached agreement with Iraq to stop the activity of the opposition (Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim). In return, Iraq agreed to stop its support for Mojahedin-e Khalq. Iraq, however, did not honor its part of the agreement. There are reports that a general amnesty will be declared in Iran. Will this amnesty include Mojahedin-e Khalq?

[Mohajerani] I do not think it will include Mojahedin-e Khalq. We can resolve the problems between us and Iraq. We must think about the future of the two countries. Foreign Minister Velayati will visit Baghdad soon to lay down the basis for the future.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You can hold talks with Iraq after eight years of war and a sea of blood and not with the United States?

[Mohajerani] The Iraqis cannot impose their decisions on us. We and Iraq can talk as equals. The United States wants to impose its views.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you expect the next Iranian president to be a religious leader?

[Mohajerani] Perhaps.

[AL-MAJALLAH] If you amend the Constitution, he will definitely be a religious leader. What happens if you do not amend it? Don't you think that the time has come to separate revolutionary slogans and religion from the state?

[Mohajerani] If the Constitution is not amended, and the new president is a religious leader, I expect him to be Dr. Ruhani (deputy speaker of the Majles). I hope he will be the president. If the president is a civilian, the choice is between Dr. Velayati and Habibi (first vice president).

[AL-MAJALLAH] The people of Tehran speak with much affection about Gholam Hoseyn Karbaschi, mayor of Tehran?

[Mohajerani] He has a better chance than Habibi and Velayati. I am one of those who support him. He would be a good politician if he were the first vice president or a prime minister.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The Iranian revolution adopted the slogan of democracy and justice. Why is there no democracy in Iran? When do you think the Iranian government will allow the establishment of parties?

[Mohajerani] I think parties must exist in Iran, because parties are the cornerstone of democracy. I have advocated and written several articles about the establishment of real parties in Iran. There is a sort of democracy in Iran. In parliament, a person can speak freely. Parliamentary sessions are open. Although no parties in the real sense of the word exist in Iran, there are teams, like the Hashemi-Rafsanjani team, the RESALAT team, the SALAM team, and others.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But all these are on the same side. Most of the opposition is not represented in parliament?

[Mohajerani] This is true. As I have said, the multiparty system is part of the democratic process.

Natural Gas Promised To New Georgian Envoy

LD2211003894 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 2038 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—On 20 November, Jimsher Giunashvili, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Georgia to Iran, presented his credentials to President Rafsanjani. After the ceremony, the Georgian ambassador and the Iranian president held a dialogue. They mainly discussed the complex economic situation in Georgia. Jimsher Giunashvili particularly stressed the issue of supplying Georgia with Iranian gas. President Rafsanjani assured the Georgian ambassador that Iran will do its best to supply the friendly country with a certain amount of natural gas.

Fairness of Paris Trial of Citizens Questioned

NC2011152494 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Nov 94 p 12

[Commentary by S. Janabi: "Will the French Judicial Apparatus Act Independently?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has been reported in the news, the trial of three Iranian citizens commenced last week. They have been charged with involvement in the murder of Shapur Bakhtiar. These three—namely, Zeyn ol-'Abedin Sarhaddizadeh, Mas'ud Hendi, and 'Ali Vakilirad—have been incarcerated since 1991. Twelve people have been accused,as announced; the remainder are to be tried in absentia.

Meanwhile, Judge (Jean-Louis Brugere), who is in charge of this case, has opposed the temporary release of these accused persons. He contends that the main suspect is not in France, and these persons were either involved in Shapur Bakhtiar's murder or facilitated it. It is worth mentioning regarding the results of the investigation by the Paris Supreme Court—which is continuing in camera—that no substantive documents regarding the involvement or complicity in the murder of the three named individuals have been presented by the French judicial authorities. Of course it appears that the opposition to their temporary release by Judge (Brugere) is due to other reasons related to the power struggle in Paris.

Some time ago, the French Government extradited two Iranian citizens who, according to Swiss judicial officials, were involved in the murder of Kazem Rajavi. The French Government stated that this action was for the purpose of safeguarding its national interests. Afterward, judicial authorities protested vehemently against this government action, saying that this was the prerogative of the judiciary. However, in a case where a crime has been committed in one country and the accused are citizens of another country the law of mutual judicial cooperation permits their extradition through the judicial authorities of a third country, who can hand over the accused and assist in collecting of documents for the first country.

It has been stated that in order to make up for the previous case, the judicial apparatus wishes to prove that it acts independently and will not give any privileges to the government. Therefore, there is a likelihood that the French judicial authorities may now go to the other extreme and reach a verdict condemning the three Iranians. On the other hand, the earlier concession [of extradition] that we mentioned is not being overlooked, and therefore the rightist French Government needs to stall for time, at least until the presidential elections are over.

It appears that conditions are not at all favorable for the three Iranians, especially since there is great possibility they will have to suffer for the accusations against those who will be tried in absentia.

The families of these individuals and the Iranian people have so far displayed immense restraint and poise, but they wish to know whether the judicial apparatus will act honestly and conscientiously, beyond the petty considerations of bureaucratic and factional rivalries.

TEHRAN TIMES Views Palestinian 'Massacre'

LD2211065594 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—A morning daily here Tuesday [22 November] stressed that any measure which overlooks aspirations of the real representatives of the Palestinian people would not work.

In its editorial today, 'TEHRAN TIMES' referred to the massacre of Palestinian Muslims by the PLO police and said now the PLO and the Zionist regime have accepted that the self-rule government "is shaky." The paper noted that both the PLO and the Zionist regime have realized that there would be no peace in the occupied areas so long as the demands of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are not met.

However, added the editorial, as in the past, instead of listening to the real representatives of the people, "Israel is trying to follow a two-pronged policy in order to contain and eliminate the islamic movement in the occupied territories." Further elaborating on the two-pronged policy, the daily said that Israel was following a "carrot and stick" policy on one hand, upon which Rabin has called for emergency international aid to the PLO and on the other hand was resorting to force to eliminate the militants who are responsible for a series of violent attacks against Israeli targets.

"Indeed, neither the financial assistance to the PLO, nor a tough-talk policy would rescue 'Arafat and Rabin from the present impasse. Both Israeli and PLO officials are helpless in handling the ever-mounting Islamic movement in the occupied territores where their responsibilities overlap," the paper added. It noted that none of the two sides could come out of the impasse so long as the followers of the path of martyrdom are there to sacrifice their own lives for the cause of Islam."

Resorting to force, stressed the daily, would not work either because that too has been resorted to from the very inception of the illegitimate Zionist regime but has been of no good during all these years.

The Middle East peace can materialize only if the Palestinians were allowed return home to form their own government, the article said, adding that when all democratic means fail, "it is but natural for the Palestinians to resort to force to restore their legal rights."

Russian Prime Minister's Gulf Tour Examined

LD2211103494 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' in its Tuesday [22 November] editorial commented on Russian Prime Minister's current tour of four Persian Gulf littoral states and said it is indicative of certain changes in the Russian foreign policy.

The new change in the Russian foreign policy not only reflects Moscow's disappointment with the West but also points up the fact that Moscow has decided to adopt an active role in regions where it could easily find footholds, the daily wrote. It said that Russia was attempting to become more active also in the Persian Gulf region and in fact it was once more assuming the role of an arch rival against the U.S. which it had abandoned for some time.

Viktor Chernomyrdin began his tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday to expand Moscow's economic, technical and military ties with the regional countries.

The daily called the recent extension of the U.S. military presence in the region as one more strong motive for Russia's recent active presence in the region besides the economic considerations which are prompting Russia to expand economic and military cooperation and promote its sale of arms in the international market.

According to the daily during his current trip, Chernomyrdin will be trying to attract some of the petrodollars from the south Persian Gulf littoral states for investment in Russia. However, the daily added that the unfavorable economic conditions in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), have greatly diminished the financial strength of the Persian Gulf Arab countries. But even without that drawback Chernomyrdin's problems would have remained unresolved, as yet the Russian markets lack the type of security that could attract investors, the daily concluded.

Azeri Official: Yeltsin Supports Baku Oil Deal

LD2111215894 Tehran IRNA in English 2133 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov. 21, IRNA—Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Russia Ramiz Rizayev here Monday [21 November] said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had in his recent visit with his Azeri counterpart Heydar Aliyev supported Iran's joining to an agreement signed between Baku and consortium of Western oil companies.

Talking to IRNA, Rizayev termed outcome of Yeltsin's visit to Azerbaijan last week as "fruitful and constructive" and said that Yeltsin had in his visit with Aliyev said that Moscow was not opposed to Iran's contribution into the agreement. He thanked Iran's peaceful efforts as a great regional country and said that Iran has done a lot so far and should adopt further measures in the region in future as well. The Azeri official said that Iran played special role in Azerbaijan's foreign policy due to religious and cultural commonalities.

Rizayev said that Azerbaijan should have special status in Iran's foreign policy and thanked Iranian people's donations to help Azeri refugees.

He hailed as "very good" Iran-Azerbaijan relations in various levels.

Commentary: 'Critical' Situation in Tajikistan

NC2011094094 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Nov 94 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Tajikistan—Fire Under the Embers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Much effort has been expended to restore peace in Tajikistan so that the opposition and the government forces—the former communists—should put aside their differences and join hands in the path of the country's construction. Coordination is necessary for continuing peace in Tajikistan; otherwise, war and skirmishes will continue and the situation will become more serious.

The convocation of presidential elections in the absence of the opposition and the fact that the Tajikistan deputy minister of security declared the cease-fire concluded between the two sides in Iran and Pakistan as null and void could generate major problems and exacerbate differences.

The one-sided elections in Tajikistan with Rakhmonov's victory have been rejected by human rights groups. The non-participation by the opposition in these elections and the pronouncement by the deputy minister for security could ignite the conflagration of war once again in this republic.

In view of the fact that extensive efforts have been made to end the conflict through negotiations between the government and the opposition groups, the way has been paved for this republic to follow a constructive path. The differences between the former communists who are supported by Russia and the nationalist and Islamic groups who are seeking a change of government culminated in differences between the sides. The Russian forces went into Tajikistan with the support of the former communists headed by Rakhmonov and embarked on the suppression of the opposition.

The clashes between the government forces, supported by Russians, and the nationalist and Islamic groups have made the situation in Tajikistan very critical. These nationalist and Islamic groups fled to Badakhshan and Afghanistan's border areas, from where they have continued their struggle. The continuation of such conflicts has engendered major problems for the government and the Russian forces to the extent that they openly announced their inability to suppress or destroy the opposition forces.

When the two sides realized that they should seek to resolve their differences through negotiations, they revised their policy. In this regard, the United Nations, Iran, and Pakistan played a constructive role which had favorable results and culminated in a cease-fire.

However, with the attitude that has been adopted by the government and with the convocation of one-sided elections, the situation has deteriorated and the differences have increased. The current situation in Tajikistan is that of smoldering embers.

If a swift and principled path is not adopted to resolve the situation, Tajikistan's problems will proliferate. War and conflict will engulf the entire republic and transform it into rubble in which the communist, nationalist, or Islamic groups will have no place. Therefore, in order to prevent the devastation of this land, egocentrism should be replaced by mutual understanding so that the war ends and all can take steps toward the country's construction.

IRNA: Tajik President Ignores Koran at Oath

LD1811184294 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Nov. 18, IRNA—'Radio Azadi' said today that the president of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmanov did not swear to the holy Koran during his oath-taking today.

It said the representatives of Muslim governments such as the Islamic Republic of Iran did not attend the oath-taking ceremonies of Rakhmanov, a former communist, who swore by the constitution instead. Only the deputy prime mnister of Russia and the vice speaker of the parliament of Uzbekistan attended the ceremonies. In the message of the president of Russia that was read by the deputy prime minister of that country continued Russian help to Tajiksitan in economic and political areas has been promised.

The radio said the absence of representatives from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan has given rise to concern among Tajik officials for fear that the said countries might provide all kinds of facilities to (?opposition). The radio said in light of obscure political conditions in Tajikistan and continued resistance of Muslim forces the future of Tajikistan and the president of that republic remains somewhat murky.

The elections organized by Rakhmanov earlier this month at short notice were boycotted by the Islamic opposition party, and even the United Nations which is mediating the negotiations between the government in Dushanbe and the Islamic opposition, did not send observors to the polls.

Nepal

Election Results Tallied; Communists Win 86 Seats

Communist Party Alleges 'Rigging'

BK2011162394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nepali Congress has improved its position after the initial setback in the midterm elections even as the Communist Party of Nepal, the UML [United Marxist-Leninist], continues to be the single largest party with 86 seats. The Nepali Congress has now improved its tally to 76 seats from the overnight 64. So far 195 results for the 205-member lower house of Parliament has been declared, of which the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party has got 20; the Nepal Mazdoor Kisan Party, four; the Sadbhavana Party, three; and independents, six.

Talking to our Kathmandu correspondent Ratan Salve, the president of the Nepali Congress, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, said the UML general secretary, Mr. Madhav Nepal, has offered to form a coalition government with his party. He said he will call an emergency meeting of the party's Working Committee to discuss the issue.

Mr. Madhav Nepal has alleged rigging in the repoll and counting in 17 constituencies. Addressing a news conference in Kathmandu, he said his party is also in touch with Rashtriya Prajatantra Party to form a coalition but has not received any response from them.

Prime Minister Tenders Resignation

BK2111122994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Nov 21 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Monday [21 Monday] tendered his resignation to King Birendra at the royal palace following a humiliating defeat of his party by opposition communists.

CPN-UML Gains House Majority

LD2111154594 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Results of only six constituencies remain to be declared in the recently concluded election to the House of Representatives. Of the declared 199 seats, the CPN-UML [Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist] has secured 86 seats, the Nepali Congress has secured 80 seats, the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party has secured 20 seats, Nepal Mazdoor

Kisan Party has secured four seats and independent candidates have secured six seats.

Among the places where vote counting is still going on, [name indistinct] of the CPN-UML has secured 11,412 votes followed by [name indistinct] of Nepali Congress with 10,272 votes and 3,592 votes for independent candidate [name indistinct] in constituency number five of Dhanusa district. Similarly in Kalikot district, [name indistinct] of Nepal MK party has secured 7,031 votes, [name indistinct] of CPN-UML (?6,667) votes and [name indistinct] of Rashtriya Pratatantra Party 6,495 votes. In Dolpa district, independent candidate [name indistinct] has secured 2,321 votes, [name indistinct] of Rashtriya Prajatantra Party 2,199 votes and [name indistinct] of CPN-UML 153 votes.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, in a message to the nation [words indistinct] said although the present election results were unexpected (?for) the Nepali Congress, the party did accept the decision of the people. Prime Minister Koirala said that he, on behalf of the Nepali Congress party (?would like to thank) the people for expressing their valuable faith by [words indistinct] election was conducted in a fair and impartial manner by earning popular faith in democracy.

The prime minister, in his message, thanked everyone involved in the present general election for their valuable contribution. Prime minister Koirala has also congratulated all those who emerged victorious in the general election 1994. Prime Minister Koirala went on to say that all political parties would forget petty differences and instead [passage indistinct]. Prime Minister Koirala also thanked all the friendly countries for their valuable assistance extended to the government of Nepal and said that those countries [words indistinct] no matter which party formed the next government.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has said that he would fully support any government formed by any party by remaining committed to constitutional values and norms. Mr. Koirala said this at a press conference at his official residence in Baluwatar today.

Communists Meet; Koirala Remarks

BK2111161294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nepal, hectic political activities are on in Kathmandu on the formation of a coalition government. Communist Party of Nepal-UML [United Marxist-Leninist] central committee met this evening. It decided to take the initiative to form a new government as it has emerged as the single largest party with 86 seats. The UML is consulting the other parties also. The ruling Nepali Congress has secured 80 seats; the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party got 20; Nepali Mazdoor Kisan Party—four; Sadbhavana Party—three; and Independents—six. Six more results are yet to come in.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1550 GMT 21 Nov in a Kathmandu dateline report, adds the following: 'Koirala said he honoured the people's mandate and pledged to function as a strong opposition leader and would extend his sincere cooperation to the new prime minister, who has yet to be named.

'"I hope all political parties would eschew mutual conflicts and quarrels and instead advance themselves peacefully and unitedly on the road of democracy," he told journalists after tendering his resignation to King Birendra Monday [21 November] evening at the royal palace.

'Soon after meeting with the king, Koirala's statement was broadcast over the radio and television, thanking voters and others for their cooperation and help during his three-year rule.

'"Though the result of the November 15 mid-term polls is not in favour of the Nepali Congress, and it has turned out to be an unexpected one, I, however, honour the serious mandate of the Nepalese people," he said.

'But Koirala was conciliatory in his remarks after resigning and said his party would work "to fulfill the role of an opposition." " In democracy, I consider that this is a happy gain for the Nepali Congress, which worked for setting the tradition of democracy," he said.

'NCP-UML chairman Man Mohan Adhikari has ruled out any collaboration with the rightist RPP to form a new government.

'But communist party general-secretary Nepal told AFP: "We should not be specific with whom we should have an alliance. We want to watch and wait for a better and favourable response from different political parties."

'He said the best alliance would be with the former ruling congress party in order to stabilize the political situation, safeguard nascent democracy, work for national development and fulfil people's aspirations.

'Meanwhile the congress has called a meeting of its central working committee on Thursday to assess the outcome of the polls and the party's future. The meeting is also expected to discuss the possibility of an alliance with the RPP.

'Sources close to the RPP said it favoured an alliance with congress rather than the communists.

'Congress party president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said: "The best thing for us would be to play the role of an active opposition in parliament and let the NCP-UML run the government. This would probably help to consolidate democracy in the country."

'Meanwhile, many grassroots Congress supporters have voiced criticism of outgoing premier Girija Prasad Koirala. The premier has had to carry much of the blame for his party's poor showing in the polls. Prasant Thakur, a congress provincial activist, said Koirala should "go into hibernation until the anger of the Nepalese people simmers down." "]

Koirala Not To Head Coalition Government

BK2211065594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nepal prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, who lost the midterm parliamentary elections, says he will not head a coalition government. He said he will rather like his party to sit in the opposition. Mr. Koirala was addressing a news conference in Katmandu.

In reply to a question, he said his party will however extend constructive cooperation to the government formed by any party. No party could achieve a clear majority in the elections. The Communist Party has emrged the single largest party securing 86 seats followed by the ruling Nepali Congress with 80 seats in the 205-member lower house of parliament.

Sri Lanka

Editorial Welcomes Kumaratunga as President

BK2211035494 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 12 Nov 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Success for Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga, who has achieved a historic victory and won a clear mandate to back up her authority, is taking the oath today as the fourth executive president and the first woman president of Sri Lanka.

The presidential system was introduced in the country 17 years ago by J.R. Jayewardene. Since then, the presidential system—which encompasses unlimited executive powers—has played havoc in the country like a rogue bull that has broken from its tethers. Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga, who has a strong determination to abolish the presidential system, is going to take the oath as president with the aim of eliminating the presidential system. It will be a truly historic event. President J.R. Jayewardene, the father of this contradictory presidential system, has been saying that this political system has certain features that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

This political system was introduced with petty political gains in mind. Bitterly criticizing the new political system and describing it as comprising several disgusting factors, political observers and those affected by this system have been clamoring for changes to it.

In the past, the presidential system has continuously given rise to devastation. Premedasa, who became president after J.R. Jayewardene and nourished the thought that anything could be achieved through excessive power, finally fell victim to violence. The post of president was then automatically transferred to Wijetunga. He kept away from any commitment.

The presidential system has so far yielded nothing but confusion. Due to the shortcomings of the powerful presidential system, our country has constantly been facing disaster.

Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga, who is going to take the oath as president, was first a chief minister, then prime minister, and now has the opportunity to reach the zenith as a woman president with executive powers. She accomplished this because of her past achievements, policies, and actions; her ability to carry matters forward with courage and political integrity; as well as the experiences she gained from the politics of her husband Wijekumaratunga, who was a secular-minded person.

To some extent, this country finally has a courageous and progressive leadership. This country is going to see the first chapter of a new political history.

Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga's victory is a victory for the voice of peace and justice. We would like to stress that the people of Sri Lanka strongly believe that Chandrika Bandranaike-Kumaratunga will make the best use of the opportunity given to her to lead the nation forward in the coming decade with full responsibility by putting an end to racist tendencies in the country, marching along the political path of her husband, observing her mother's advice, and emulating her father's courage.

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